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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Sobering salute

IAVA display seeks to call attention to suicides

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MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

Sandra Lee Altamirano, a major in the Army Reserve, places a flag on the National Mall on Wednesday as part of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America's effort to bring awareness to military and veteran suicides. A flag was planted for every veteran and servicemember who committed suicide in 2018 through Oct. 3 — 5,520.

Pentagon: Mattis' 'deploy or out' policy is working

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has reduced the number of servicemembers listed as undeployable by more than 100,000 in the eight months since the Pentagon announced its new "deploy or out" policy, defense officials said Tuesday.

As of Aug. 31, 126,000 servicemembers — or roughly 6 percent of the mil-

itary's total force, which includes active duty, reserve and National Guard troops — were listed in a nondeployable status, according to the Pentagon. In January, just before Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced he would implement the new policy, the Pentagon reported there were 235,000 troops, or 11 percent of the force, listed as nondeployable.

The policy is meant to motivate the thousands of troops who have remained in uniform despite being unable to de-

ploy to take the necessary steps to return to deployable status, officials have said. Troops can be placed on nondeployable status for a variety of reasons including medical conditions, fitness problems and administrative reasons. The vast majority of troops who cannot attain deployable status within one year will be selected for involuntary removal from the service by their commanders, according to the policy.

SEE POLICY ON PAGE 7

'We've seen some of those readiness numbers, those nondeployable numbers come down. It's the impact the secretary had hoped to see.'

Mike Melillo

Pentagon's deputy director for force management

MILITARY

Senate eyes passage of bill to check China

By RACHEL OSWALD
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The Senate is looking to pass in the coming weeks a bill that would guide U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific with an eye toward preventing China from becoming a hegemonic regional power.

The Senate Foreign Relations committee last week unanimously advanced a bipartisan bill from Sens. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., and Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., who lead the Asia-Pacific Subcommittee. The measure would authorize more than \$1.5 billion in new funds over the next five years for the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development and the Pentagon to maintain regional political support for the rules-based international order that the United States has championed over the last 70 years.

Committee aides say they believe the legislation's likeliest course to passage is through a unanimous consent agreement. Companion legislation has been filed in the House by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., that Senate staffers believe will

get a boost if the Senate acts first.

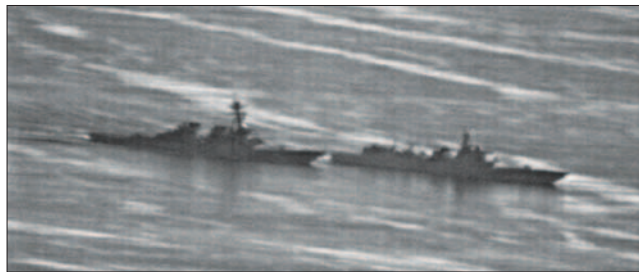
"For decades, U.S. policy was rooted in the belief that support for China's rise and for its integration into the postwar international world order would liberalize China," Gardner said at a September subcommittee hearing on China's military strategy. "Contrary to our hopes, China expanded its power at the expense of the sovereignty of others."

The bill is the latest effort in Congress to counter China's reach. Senators are set to clear separate legislation that would more than double the amount of U.S. government financing for infrastructure projects available to developing nations in the Asia-Pacific and around the world.

Gardner's 59-page legislation, which has the support of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, does not spell out how the \$1.5 billion is to be divided up between State, USAID and the Pentagon.

Rather, the legislation says the money must be spent on activities that improve the defense capacity of partner nations to "resist coercion" and to participate in bilateral and multilateral "engagements" aimed at responding to China's "destabilizing activities" and North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. Funding also would support counterterrorism programs in Southeast Asia to respond to continuing concerns about Islamic State's regional influence.

"It's a soup to nuts Asia policy bill. We've been working on this for a very long time," said a Foreign Relations Committee staffer who was not authorized to be named.



This Navy image obtained by naval website gCaptain.com shows a confrontation between the USS Decatur, left, and a Chinese destroyer in the South China Sea on Sunday.

Close encounter between ships is shown in photos

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Photos of an encounter between a Navy guided-missile destroyer and Chinese warship shed light on just how close the ships came to colliding Sunday in the South China Sea.

Naval website gCaptain.com published a series of photos Tuesday showing the USS Decatur and the People's Republic of China destroyer Luyang passing each other during the confrontation. The Chinese ship appears to veer close to the Decatur before the U.S. ship pulls away to avoid a collision.

A Navy official confirmed to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday

that the photos are legitimate, but said it is unknown how the website got access to the images, which were not publicly released.

The incident happened about 8:30 a.m. Sunday when the Luyang sailed within 45 yards of the Decatur in "an unsafe and unprofessional maneuver," the Navy said Monday. It happened in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, which are a source of contention in the region as China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines each claim land masses in the area and dispute their sovereignty.

The Decatur was conducting a routine patrol of the region at the time — something the Navy regularly does to ensure freedom of

navigation through the contested international waters.

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman, a spokesman for U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a statement earlier this week that "the PRC destroyer conducted a series of increasingly aggressive maneuvers accompanied by warnings for [the] Decatur to depart the area" during the encounter.

"The PRC destroyer approached within 45 yards of [the] Decatur's bow, after which [the] Decatur maneuvered to prevent a collision," he said in the statement.

The Navy is now determining whether it will officially release the images to the public.

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Correction

On Sept. 27, a story about a new fitness assessment for Air Force explosive ordinance technicians misspelled one of the test's more grueling components, due to an Air Force error. The exercise is named the "Gruseter."

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PACIFIC

USS Wasp stops for a break in Singapore

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The USS Wasp arrived in Singapore on Tuesday, a week after its strike group of 2,200 sailors and Marines were denied a port visit to Hong Kong by Beijing.

The Sasebo, Japan-based Wasp — accompanied by the landing dock ship USS Ashland and members of the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit — have been patrolling the Western Pacific since early August. The Wasp's commander, Capt.

Colby Howard, said the sailors and Marines were very excited for some well-deserved time ashore after two very successful months.

Late last month, China turned down a U.S. request for the group to stop in Hong Kong in October. The denial came a day after 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports went into effect.

The U.S. also had recently issued sanctions on China after discovering the country had bought

fighter jets from Russia and a surface-to-air missile system, and in May dismantled China from its large-scale multinational Rim of the Pacific exercise.

The Wasp strike group recently conducted a drill focused on defending its ships in the South China Sea, where on Sunday a Chinese destroyer veered within 45 yards of the USS Decatur in "an unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" in the Spratly Islands, the Navy said.

The Navy regularly sends its ships on patrols through the

South and East China seas to maintain freedom of navigation through the international waters that China attempts to claim.

The country is militarizing reclaimed land in the seas and regularly disputes the sovereignty of islands in the region.

The strike group's patrol has also included disaster relief operations. After Typhoon Mangkhut struck the Northern Marianas on Sept. 10, its ships positioned themselves behind the ten-Catagory 2 storm and had aircraft in the air by sunrise the next day,

said Task Force 76 commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper.

"Within hours, we had Marines and sailors on ground assessing damage and preparing for recovery," he told Stars and Stripes via telephone from the Wasp on Sept. 13.

Mangkhut later plowed into Hong Kong, becoming the most powerful storm to hit the city since 1979, according to the Hong Kong Observatory.

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SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Maj. Buckley Kozlowski, commander of Detachment 1, 353rd Special Operations Group, speaks to reporters about the CV-22 Osprey at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Wednesday.

Japanese press get their first glimpse of Ospreys

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Japanese reporters got a close-up look at one of five Air Force CV-22 Ospreys at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo on Wednesday.

The journalists were allowed to take photos and video and clamber inside the tilt-rotor aircraft in a hangar before a short question-and-answer session with Air Force Maj. Buckley Kozlowski, commander of Detachment 1, 353rd Special Operations Group.

The locals wanted to know technical details about the CV-22s, which arrived at Yokota in the spring but departed for training outside Japan over the summer and officially began their tenure at the base Monday.

There have been regular protests near the base this year by activists concerned about noise and safety issues that may be associated with the helicopter-plane hybrids. In February, the commander of one of Okinawa's two Marine Corps Osprey squadrons was fired, about six months after a crash off Australia's eastern coast killed three Marines.

Kozlowski told the reporters that the CV-22 is an "extremely safe aircraft." The

airmen who fly and maintain it are skilled at accomplishing missions while keeping safety a priority, he said.

"Yokota is the primary Western Pacific airlift hub for peacetime and contingency operations," he said. "Forward-basing the CV-22 at Yokota Air Base provides increased capability for the defense of Japan as well as capability for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance."

Members of the unit were happy to see long lines of locals lining up to see and learn about the aircraft during Yokota's recent Japanese-American Friendship Festival, Kozlowski said. Reporters wanted to know about the unit operating the CV-22s and what sort of activities they'd be involved in. Officials didn't provide detailed information about plans for the Ospreys.

"All of our tactical training is conducted at approved locations coordinated between the U.S. government and the government of Japan," Kozlowski said. "The training we conduct is done with an eye towards maximizing safety."

Ten CV-22s will eventually be assigned to Yokota. The timeline for that to happen will be coordinated between the U.S. and Japanese governments, he added.

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USS Blue Ridge returns to sea after 2 years

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — One of the most prominent berths at Yokosuka was unusually bare Wednesday morning, causing passersby to stop along the sidewalk and take photos of the pier.

The USS Blue Ridge returned to sea Tuesday after two years of maintenance, upgrades and repairs, said 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley, leaving empty its berth near a major base intersection where its sat since leaving dry dock in January.

"While at sea, the crew and embarked 7th Fleet staff are exercising the ship's primary mission to command and control 7th Fleet," Keiley said.

Commissioned in 1970, the Blue Ridge is the Navy's oldest operational ship. It was scheduled in June 2016 to undergo 14 months of maintenance, repairs, refurbishments and system upgrades, but unexpected issues arose with its engineering plant, causing it to be kept in dry dock past the scheduled completion date of August 2017.

The repairs cost more than \$60 million and took about 135,000 man-hours to complete, the Navy previously said. Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William Moran told Stars and Stripes last month that having the Blue Ridge back to sea would be worth the effort and expense.

"We have invested a lot of money into keeping that ship relevant for what that ship is made for, which is a command ship for the 7th Fleet commander," he said. "It's an old ship, but she's got all the modern capabilities and then some, which says a lot about our commitment."

Seventh Fleet staff moved back onto



ADAM THOMAS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS Blue Ridge is back at sea after two years of repairs and maintenance.

their flagship this past summer from temporary on-base offices used since 2016 when maintenance on the vessel began.

The ship's boilers were re-lit in June. In combat, the Blue Ridge would be used as a central planning vessel. During peacetime, bringing the flagship and the 7th Fleet's leadership on port visits sends a strong message to allies.

Keiley said this concept is unique in that it "is the only fleet that brings the staff out to sea to operate this way" for long lengths of time.

The 6th Fleet uses its USS Mount Whitney command ship in a similar manner, but for shorter periods, Keiley said.

After touring the Blue Ridge last month, Moran told Stars and Stripes the specially designed ship serves an important purpose.

"If we have to fight out here, you're going to want to be mobile; you're going to want to be out where the action is and be able to communicate intent by the fleet commander," he said. "And that ship is custom made for that purpose."

It is unclear when the Blue Ridge will return to Yokosuka, since the Navy does not discuss ship movements.

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Okinawa governor: Base move not needed

Associated Press

Okinawa Gov.-elect Denny Tamaki said Monday that he would ask both the Japanese and U.S. governments to hold talks with him about the planned transfer of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Ginowan to the Henoko area in Nago, both in the prefecture, saying that the transfer is unnecessary.

"If drills currently held at the Futenma station take place at U.S. bases outside Japan in rotation, neither the Futenma station nor its transfer to Henoko will be

needed," Tamaki said.

It was the first time he had suggested an alternative solution to the plan, which he did not do during the campaign. Tamaki won the gubernatorial election on Sunday.

"For example, if there can be a situation in which [the U.S. military] holds no drills in Okinawa Prefecture, using instead U.S. military facilities in Guam and on Tinian Island (a self-governing territory of the United States), then it won't be necessary to build a new base in the Henoko area," he explained.

MILITARY

Colonel takes plea in misconduct case

Nonjudicial punishment stems from sex case involving airman at Mildenhall

By KELSEY LANDIS

Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat

An Air Force colonel took a plea deal following an investigation into sexual misconduct accusations involving incidents at RAF Mildenhall, England, officials confirmed Monday.

Col. John Howard, who served most recently as commander of Scott Air Force Base, agreed to accept discipline without a military trial in a process known as nonjudicial punishment proceedings.

Howard's discipline includes a reprimand and forfeiture of \$5,420 per monthly pay period for two months.

Howard was still on active duty as of Monday at Scott Air Force Base, but was not in a command position, according to Capt. Ryan DeCamp, a spokesman for the 18th Air Force.

Howard will keep his colonel rank while on active duty, but that could change when he applies for retirement. An officer who has received nonjudicial punishment must go through an officer-grade determination process, DeCamp said.

That will determine if he retires

as a colonel or if he is demoted to a lower rank, which would come with lower retirement pay.

The nonjudicial punishment does not constitute a criminal conviction.

Sexual assault charges were originally filed against Howard in June, though he was ultimately disciplined for conduct unbecoming an officer and fraternization with a junior enlisted airman.

Howard's defense attorney, Richard Stevens, did not immediately return a request for comment.

Howard sought a relationship with "a very junior airman" in his command, the formal reprimand stated. He made "disgusting remarks" about his penis to her and regularly attempted to flirt with her, the reprimand stated.

"You placed this airman in a terrible position of coercion based on your rank," former 18th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Giovanni Tuck wrote in the reprimand.

Tuck was commander of the 18th Air Force when he decided to oust Howard. Tuck has since taken a post as director for logistics in Arlington, Va.

The charges stem from his time at RAF Mildenhall in the United Kingdom, where Howard served as vice commander of the 100th Air Refueling Wing. His conduct went on from March 2016 to November 2017.

Howard also discussed private information about other officers with the airman and performed a sex act on her in her hotel room, according to the reprimand.

Howard's actions continued when he became a commander at Scott Air Force Base. He continued to send the airman text messages about how much he missed her. Howard also insulted a senior master sergeant in his text messages, sent selfies and told the airman she was "daring" and "gorgeous."

"Your blatant disregard for standards has degraded boundaries between officers and the enlisted force," Tuck stated in the reprimand. "Your actions eroded good order, discipline, and respect for your position and for authority. From this point forward I expect you to not conduct yourself in the way you failed before."

Howard accepted the pretrial agreement on July 2, and an ap-

peals process ended Sept. 10, according to DeCamp. Howard had been set to go to trial this past summer.

The victim did not wish to testify in court-martial proceedings, according to Capt. Lauren Kerby, a Special Victims Counsel judge advocate.

"After much consideration, my client has decided not to testify in the subject court-martial proceeding," Kerby said in a prepared statement. "For my client, an expeditious resolution honoring her desire not to participate in a court-martial while still holding Colonel Howard accountable for his actions is justice."

Howard was originally charged with two counts of cruelty and maltreatment, two counts of sexual assault, one count of conduct unbecoming an officer and one count of fraternization in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Howard was commander of the 375th Air Mobility Wing until December, when the commander of the 18th Air Force replaced him, saying he lost confidence in Howard's ability to lead the wing.

Fort Drum to mark Mogadishu anniversary

Associated Press

FORT DRUM, N.Y.—Soldiers at Fort Drum and veterans of the battle depicted in the film "Black Hawk Down" are commemorating the engagement's 25th anniversary.

Officials with the 10th Mountain Division say three days of events that began Wednesday will honor the veterans of the Battle of Mogadishu and the 18 American soldiers who were killed in Somalia 25 years ago this week.

The battle began Oct. 3, 1993, when two Black Hawk helicopters were shot down as Army Rangers and Delta Force teams conducted raids to capture Somali warlords who controlled food sources meant for starving civilians.

The events include a screening of a documentary film about the battle and a panel discussion.

EUROPE

US willing to lend cyberwarfare tools to NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. will make cyberwarfare capabilities available to NATO to bolster the alliance's efforts to counter Russian hacking and network espionage, a senior U.S. official said.

The announcement is likely to come during a two-day defense ministers' meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels, which opened Wednesday. The U.K. and Denmark are expected to offer similar support.

"We will formally announce that the United States is prepared to offer NATO its cyber capabilities if asked," Katie Wheelbarger, a senior Pentagon official, told reporters traveling to Brussels with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. The U.S. will maintain control of its capabilities but would use them for NATO operations if called upon, Wheelbarger told Reuters.

NATO has begun to make cyberwarfare a priority as attacks on the West have increased from adversaries such as Russia and China.

In July, NATO heads of state agreed to establish a new cyber operations center. Allies have designated the cyber realm as a



Photos courtesy of NATO

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, left, is met at NATO Headquarters in Brussels by Kay Bailey Hutchison, the American ambassador to NATO.

military domain on par with land, sea and air operations.

The White House last month said it has authorized offensive cyber operations against unnamed adversaries, a move that coincided with the Trump administration's loosening of rules governing the use of cyberweapons.

The Pentagon's 2018 cyber strategy document also empha-

sizes taking the initiative against adversaries.

"The Department must take action in cyberspace during day-to-day competition to preserve U.S. military advantages and to defend U.S. interests," the document states.

"Our focus will be on the states that can pose strategic threats to U.S. prosperity and security, par-



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he expects more nations to offer up national cyber capabilities when needed to bolster NATO defenses.

ticularly China and Russia." U.S. capabilities range from tools that disrupt or infiltrate communication networks to worming into state infrastructure.

One prominent example was the Stuxnet worm reportedly deployed in 2010 to disrupt Iran's nuclear facility, though Washington never publicly acknowledged its role.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters at NATO headquarters Wednesday that he expected more nations to offer national cyber capabilities when needed to bolster NATO defenses.

"We have seen an increasing number of cyberattacks," Stoltenberg said. "They are more frequent and more sophisticated."

During talks in Brussels, military commanders will update defense ministers on the progress of the new cyber operations, Stoltenberg said.

In 2016, NATO agreed that a cyberattack could trigger an Article 5 response from the alliance, citing the provision that an attack on one member demands a collective response from all.

But member states are still debating when electronic intrusions rise to that level.

Also during the Brussels summit, allies are expected to discuss concerns about Russia's alleged violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, as well as progress on two new headquarters intended to speed the movement of NATO forces across the Atlantic and around Europe.

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VETERANS

IAVA highlights suicide crisis

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thousands of American flags filled a grassy expanse on the National Mall on Wednesday morning, each of them representing a veteran or a servicemember who died by suicide in 2018 so far.

Maj. Sandra Lee Altamirano, of the Army Reserve, said she took military leave to help place the 5,520 U.S. flags. She recently lost three friends to suicide, two of whom were veterans.

A couple of years ago, after serving three deployments in Iraq, she contemplated suicide herself.

"Each of these flags is a name, a person. Three of them are my friends, and one could've been me," said Altamirano, now a suicide prevention liaison in the Reserve. "I hope this helps people see how vast of an issue this is. It's overwhelming. It's a crisis."

The flags were placed on the Mall by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, an advocacy group trying to draw awareness to the issue of veteran suicide.

On Wednesday, the scene grabbed the attention of tourists, who took photos of the small flags with the Washington Monument in the background.

A new report released last week by the Department of Veterans Affairs shows suicide among veterans and service-members continues to be higher than in the rest of the U.S. population. Veterans accounted for 14 percent of all suicides in the United States in 2016, yet they make up 8 percent of the population.

The rate of suicide among young veterans substantially increased from 2015 to 2016. For every 100,000 veterans age 18 to 34, 45 committed suicide in 2016 — up from 40.4 for every 100,000 in 2015.

Rates have also increased among female veterans and some members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The release of the report last week coincided with a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Several lawmakers questioned why there hasn't been significant improvement, given that Congress has increased the amount of



MEREDITH TUBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

Stephanie Mullen, the research director at Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans A, goes through flags planted at the National Mall. There was a flag for every military person and veteran who committed suicide in 2018 through Oct. 3.

money that it allots for VA mental health programs.

"I'm beyond frustrated about the numbers and data," said Keith Franklin, executive director of the VA's suicide prevention program. "Having worked in this field as long as I have, it's frustrating. When I try to think about what we're missing ... we tend to do a lot of one thing at a time and do it very well, full throttle. Preventing suicide takes a bundle of 10 to 12 things done at full throttle, all the time."

Of the approximately 20 veterans who commit suicide every day, 14 are not receiving health care from the VA. Part of the VA's effort is getting veterans to seek help.

Stephanie Keegan traveled from New York to help plant flags Wednesday morning. Her son Daniel was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan who died of a drug overdose in 2016 while struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. He had waited 16 months to get into a VA

mental health program, Keegan said. He was supposed to be admitted Jan. 23. He died Jan. 8.

Daniel Keegan had wanted to become involved in veterans advocacy. So now, Stephanie Keegan is dedicating her life to it. She has left her son's photo in every House lawmaker's office, met with VA secretaries and is involved with IAVA, in addition to other advocacy efforts.

"I get to do the work that he wanted to do, and I feel like he's sitting on my shoulder all the time," Keegan said. "It's been an opportunity to educate people on what a really struggling veteran looks like because he didn't look like anything you would expect. He was healthy as could be, but he was catastrophically ill for the last two years of his life."

To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, text 838255 or dial 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

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War vet ends bid for mayor

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Jason Kander, an Afghanistan War veteran who is widely praised as a rising star in the Democratic party, withdrew Tuesday from the Kansas City, Mo., mayoral race to seek help for depression and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Last week, Kander called the Veterans Crisis Line and told a crisis responder that he had suicidal thoughts. On Monday, he went to the Kansas City VA Medical Center, where he's planning to receive regular treatment.

"To allow me to concentrate on my mental health, I've decided that I will not be running for mayor of Kansas City," Kander wrote Tuesday.

Kander posted a letter on his campaign website and Facebook page explaining his mental health struggles. He notes that being forthcoming will help veterans and others who are working through mental health issues, he said.

"I wish I would have sought help sooner, so if me going public with my struggle makes just one person seek assistance, doing this publicly is worth it to me," he wrote.

Kander, 37, was an Army intelligence officer in Afghanistan in 2005. When he returned home, he became involved in politics and won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives in 2008. In 2012, he was elected to be Missouri Secretary of State, becoming the first millennial in the country elected to a statewide office. He was 32 at the time.

Kander entered the 2016 U.S. Senate election and won the Democratic primary, but he was defeated in the general election by Sen. Roy Blunt, the Republican incumbent. He entered the Kansas City mayoral race in June.

He detailed his wartime and political experience in a memoir "Outside the Wire," which was published in August and is now a New York Times Bestseller.

Since 2005, his deployment in Afghanistan has affected him every day, he wrote Tuesday. For years, he rejected the notion of having PTSD because he felt he "didn't earn it."

"But on some level, I knew something was deeply wrong, and that it hadn't felt that way before my deployment," he wrote. "After 11 years of this, I finally took a step toward dealing with it, but I didn't step far enough."

Kander went to the Department of Veterans Affairs four months ago, but at the time was "too scared to acknowledge my true symptoms." He was afraid of the stigma and potential political fallout, he said.

His symptoms recently worsened. "Last Tuesday, I found out that we were going to raise more money than any Kansas City mayoral campaign ever has in a single quarter," he wrote. "But instead of celebrating that accomplishment, I found myself on the phone with the VA's Veterans Crisis Line, tearfully conceding that, yes, I have had suicidal thoughts. And it wasn't the first time."

"In 'Outside the Wire,' Kander wrote he was lucky to not experience PTSD. On Tuesday, he said, "he wrote that he was 'just trying to convince myself.'"

According to the VA, 11 to 18 percent of veterans from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars will struggle with PTSD when they return. That's higher than the rest of the population, among which 7 to 9 percent experience PTSD.

Kander thought running to be mayor of Kansas City, his hometown, would "fill the hole inside of me."

"After 11 years of trying to outrun depression and PTSD symptoms, I have finally concluded that it's faster than me," he said. "That I have to stop running, turn around and confront it."

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Kander

Robotic wheelchair promises vets a better ride

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — A new robotic wheelchair that shifts its shape and wheel configuration to match terrain could help restore independence for thousands of catastrophically disabled veterans.

The chair, being developed by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, was one of several new mobility technologies the scientists shared on Monday with medical professionals at Clay Kaserne's mission command center.

"This type of wheelchair gives you independence, to reach something on a high shelf for example, and to keep the rider safe indoors and outdoors," said Sivashankar Sivakanthan, a graduate researcher at Pitt. "The benefits add up very quickly."

The Mobility Enhancement Robotic wheelchair, or MEBot, draws on new developments in robotics and pneumatics to enable wheels and other parts to change configuration with the flick of a switch.

The wheels, for example, can slide forward or backward to negotiate a curb that



WILL MORRIS/Stars and Stripes

Sivashankar Sivakanthan demonstrates a MEBot on Wednesday in Wiesbaden, Germany.

a normal electric wheelchair couldn't handle. By tilting forward, backward and from side to side, the chair can prevent a rider from falling out of the chair.

The movements also make the chair less likely to topple over, which is the No. 1 reason people in wheelchairs go to the

emergency room, said Rory Cooper, director of Pitt's Human Engineering Research Laboratories.

Development of the chair is a joint project of the laboratory, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The projected cost of the chair — about \$30,000 — puts it on par with current electric wheelchairs, Cooper said. The MEBot is expected to be available for purchase in about five years, he said.

Also at Clay Kaserne on Monday, the Pitt scientists demonstrated a wheelchair powered by compressed air. Besides the environmental advantages, the pneumatic chair can be driven in swimming pools, giving disabled veterans greater access.

Another wheelchair they displayed is designed for racing. It uses hand cranks and woven composite graphite for areas that would normally succumb to the strains sustained during racing.

According to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, there are 100,000 veterans who suffer from spinal cord injury or disease.

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MILITARY

Ex-sailor suspected of sending suspicious letters

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A former Navy sailor is suspected by the FBI of sending suspicious envelopes addressed to President Donald Trump, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Adm. John Richardson that authorities believe contained a deadly poison, according to a news report Wednesday.

The letters which officials suspected contained ricin were intercepted Monday and no one was reported injured, officials said. At least one of the envelopes contained a return address that led FBI investigators

to a suspect who once served in the Navy, according to a Fox News report that cited unnamed U.S. officials.

Pentagon and FBI officials declined to confirm the report. Fox did not name the suspect.

The Secret Service said Tuesday that the envelope addressed to Trump was not received at the White House, nor did it ever enter the White House. The agency did not speak to the contents of the envelope or where it was received Monday.

The White House had no comment.

The two letters addressed to Mattis and Richardson were discovered Monday at the

Pentagon's mail sorting center, a defense official said Tuesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the FBI was leading the probe into the incident.

Neither Mattis, who is now in Brussels, nor Richardson, the chief of naval operations, were endangered, the official said.

The letters never reached the Pentagon building, said Chris Sherwood, a Defense Department spokesman. The mail center is located on the Pentagon grounds but in a separate facility built after anthrax was found in government mail in 2001.

The FBI took custody of the envelopes, which underwent further testing Tuesday,

an FBI spokeswoman said. She declined additional comment.

All mail received Monday at the Pentagon facility was quarantined, according to a Pentagon statement released Tuesday. No Pentagon personnel were endangered.

Ricin is a deadly poison that is found in castor beans, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A small amount of ricin exposure by inhalation or ingestion can be deadly within three days, according to the CDC.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. dickstein.corey@stripes.com
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Navy marks end of Combat Camera units

BY COURTNEY MAREUS
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — A photo taken by Johnny Bivera as a young petty officer third class during his first tour in Navy Expeditionary Combat Camera in 1992 may have prevented an international incident.

Bivera had been assigned to photograph a live-fire beach training exercise involving U.S. Marines and their South American counterparts. After it was over, children and spectators ran out to a berm to grab shell casings as souvenirs. Then there was an explosion that injured at least two children and killed one, Bivera said.

The U.S. was being blamed. Bivera was ordered to document the

scene. When he was done shooting, he developed his film in a darkroom set up in a tiny bathroom on the destroyer USS O'Bannon. As the sun rose, he laid out his prints before an admiral.

"My pictures clearly showed that there were numerous dead mortar rounds stuck in the ground," Bivera said. "Imagery also showed our Marines were only using (light anti-tank weapon) rockets while they were lobbing mortar shells. So the importance of visual imagery at that moment became clear to me."

Bivera declined to name who was at fault for those mortars. He retired as a chief petty officer in 2006.

Bivera shared his story before a small crowd of former and current Navy combat photographers

and videographers. They gathered at Naval Station Norfolk recently for a ceremony to mark the end of Combat Camera. The Navy announced late last year that it would disband the Norfolk-based command, as well as a similar one in San Diego, at the end of the fiscal year — Monday — to save money.

The Navy started putting photographers in aircraft during World War I for aerial reconnaissance missions. Its combat photographers have documented every major conflict since, as well as training exercises and other missions, not just for public use but to document the work of its sailors. It was a tight-knit group with specialized training that allowed them to embed across military units, including

with Navy SEALs, as well as dive on underwater wreckage and shoot aerial missions.

Sailors who served in Combat Camera commands have been reassigned across the fleet. Those working as mass communications specialists who need specialized training for the kind of assignments combat camera used to do will receive it as needed, Capt. Gregory Hicks, the service's chief of naval information, said.



SEAN FUREY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Austin Simmons and Petty Officer 1st Class Blake Midnight conduct underwater photography training

Policy: Some troops will be exempted

FROM FRONT PAGE

Mattis, who announced the policy in February, said it would ease the burden of deploying was better spread throughout the military force and it would increase combat readiness because more servicemembers would be available to deploy.

Servicemembers who cannot deploy "need to find something else to do," he said at the time. "I'm not going to have some people deploying constantly and then other people, who seem not to pay that price, in the U.S. military."

The new policy requires each service to track the number of nondeployable servicemembers in its ranks and report them to Mattis. Though the service was officially implemented Monday, the services began reporting to Mattis on a voluntary basis earlier this year as they worked to determine the scope of the problem.

The policy does not represent a dramatic change for the military, said Mike Melillo, the Pentagon's deputy director for force management. The Pentagon has long had policies in place to remove troops for medical and administrative reasons, but the new policy is designed to streamline that pro-

cess and inspire servicemembers who want to remain in uniform to maintain deployable status.

Troops are already taking it seriously, Melillo said, citing the improving statistics during the course of the year.

"What we've seen in the lead-up to this ... we've seen some of those readiness numbers, those nondeployable numbers come down," he said. "It's the impact the secretary had hoped to see."

Some troops will be exempted from the new policy, said Patricia Mulcahy, the director of officer and enlisted personnel management. Exempted servicemembers include troops injured in combat and pregnant and postpartum women. Servicemembers within three years of retirement can be granted an exemption and service secretaries can approve other exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

The Pentagon's goal is to bring each of the military services — the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps — to a maximum of 5 percent of its force in a nondeployable state at any time, Mulcahy said.

Some of the military services had already reached the goal, Mulcahy said. However, she de-

clined to identify which services had reached the goal or provide specific statistics for each service, citing security concerns.

Of the 126,000 servicemembers listed in nondeployable status as of Aug. 31, 66,000 were unable to deploy due to an illness or injury, according to Pentagon statistics. More so, 24,000 of the troops unable to deploy were considered permanently nondeployable and would likely face the possibility of being removed from the service.

The August numbers were the most recent available, officials said. Statistics for September are not expected to be published until later this month.

Pentagon officials do not envision a massive dismissal of nondeployable troops in the coming months, Mulcahy said.

So far, servicemembers seem to be accepting the message and committing to stay in a deployable status as much as possible, she said.

"This policy was not designed to push people out," Mulcahy said. "It is to reinforce and emphasize to get our nondeployable members back to a deployable status."

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NATION

Senators hit Trump for mocking Ford

By ALAN FRAM, MICHAEL BALSAMO AND ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two wavering Republican senators lambasted President Donald Trump on Wednesday for mocking a woman who has claimed Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in the 1980s, underscoring the risks of assailing Kavanaugh's three accusers as Senate support teeters for the Supreme Court nominee.

The blowback to Trump's scoffing at Christine Blasey Ford came as lawmakers awaited results of a revived FBI background check, expected imminently, on accusations of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in high school and college. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said the chamber will vote on Kavanaugh later this week, and the conservative judge's fate is in the hands of a handful of undecided GOP and Democratic senators.

At a political rally in Mississippi Tuesday night, Trump mimicked Ford's responses at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last week at which she recounted Kavanaugh's alleged attack on her when both were in high school. The audience laughed as Trump, at times inaccurately, recounted what he described as holes in her testimony.

"I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember," Trump said.

On NBC's "Today" show Wednesday, Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said that ridiculing "something this sensitive at a political rally is just not right." Flake added, "I wish he hadn't done it. It's kind of appalling."

Separately, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, told reporters, "The president's comments were just plain wrong."

Trump's aggressive criticism

of Ford seems to reflect the sentiments of some of his conservative supporters. But it raises questions about how such words will affect five senators — all moderates — whose votes on Kavanaugh will be decisive.

Besides Flake and Collins, Republican Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, and Democrats Joe Manchin, of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota, have yet to declare their positions on Kavanaugh.

Flake has clashed repeatedly with Trump over his behavior and is retiring at year's end. Collins has criticized Trump at times as well but not as often as Flake.

Trump's comments about Ford reflected a growing frustration among some in the White House, and by the president, that her story has not received the same level of scrutiny as Kavanaugh's, and the Senate will vote this week, though he didn't specify when. Underscoring the GOP effort to vote on Kavanaugh quickly — and end the chances for fresh allegations to emerge — he said "it shouldn't take long" for lawmakers to read the report.

Democrats contend the investigation has not been expanded to sufficient potential witnesses. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said he wants senators to receive an FBI briefing on its findings at least 24 hours before the chamber takes its first procedural vote on Kavanaugh, but Republicans have given no sign of assenting to that.

The FBI has finished an interview with Chris Garrett, a high school friend of Kavanaugh. Garrett's lawyer, William Sullivan, said Garrett has voluntarily cooperated with the FBI's reopened background check, but he declined to comment further.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Landers Center Arena in Southaven, Miss., on Tuesday.

ret's lawyer, William Sullivan, said Garrett has voluntarily cooperated with the FBI's reopened background check, but he declined to comment further.

Garrett is at the least fifth person known to have been interviewed since last Friday, when the White House directed the FBI to look again into the allegations.

Others interviewed include Mark Judge, who Ford has said was in the bedroom where, she says, a drunken Kavanaugh sexually attacked her at a 1982 high school gathering. Also interviewed were two other people Ford said were present but in a different room: Patrick "P.J." Smyth and Leland Keyser. Judge, Smyth and Keyser say they don't recall the incident described by Ford.

Kavanaugh has denied the ac-

cusations by Ford, by Deborah Ramirez, who says he exposed himself to her during a college party, and by Julie Swetnick, who has alleged she was victimized at a party attended by Kavanaugh and his friends.

Besides Trump, Senate Republicans also began to aim credibility questions at Ford.

In a letter Tuesday night, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee pressed Ford to turn over more information to support her claim and accused her lawyers of "withholding material evidence." Sen. Chuck Grassley repeated his request for notes from Ford's therapy sessions, details of her communications with The Washington Post and any recordings of her taking a lie detector test.

Interview with accuser scrutinized

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When a third woman came forward to accuse Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct during 1980s house parties in Maryland, some in the media kept their distance. NBC News made a different decision.

MSNBC aired a 10-minute story Monday about reporter Kate Snow's interview with Julie Swetnick, with an excerpt on NBC's "Nightly News." The interview was a continued topic of conversation — and further reporting — on Tuesday.

Kavanaugh has not just denied her allegations, he suggested they're "from the Twilight Zone." During the interview conducted Sunday, Snow said there were inconsistencies between what Swetnick wrote in a sworn affidavit and what she told her. Attempts to reach people who could corroborate her story were unsuccessful. Dispatches from other news organizations have questioned Swetnick's credibility, including an Associated Press story that detailed her extensive history of legal disputes.

Those are normal signals for news organizations to apply the brakes.

Lawyers question FBI's Kavanaugh investigation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for two women who accuse Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct say they fear the FBI is not conducting a thorough investigation as Republican leaders steer toward a decisive vote on the nomination this week.

Attorneys for Christine Blasey Ford, who says she was sexually assaulted by Kavanaugh at a party when they were teenagers, wrote a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray asking why the FBI hasn't contacted their client after she offered to cooperate in the FBI's reopened background investigation of Kavanaugh.

Also Tuesday, an attorney for another accuser, Deborah Ramirez, said he's seen no indication that the FBI has reached

out to any of the 20 people who Ramirez told them may be able to corroborate her account that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her when they were Yale freshmen. The attorney, John Clune, said Ramirez was interviewed by the FBI on Sunday and provided agents with the witnesses' contact numbers.

Clune said he is concerned that the bureau "is not conducting — or not being permitted to conduct — a serious investigation."

Demonstrating that the investigation is credible is crucial as the White House and Senate Republican leadership look to win the support of several wavering senators — including three Republicans — who will determine whether the 53-year-old conservative judge is confirmed to lifetime post.

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NATION

Report refutes Trump's self-made billionaire claim

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Times reported Tuesday that President Donald Trump received at least \$413 million from his father over the decades, much of that through dubious tax dodges, including outright fraud.

The 15,000-word Times report contradicts Trump's portrayal of himself as a self-made billionaire who started with just a \$1 million loan from his father.

The Times says Trump and his father, Fred, avoided gift and inheritance taxes by setting up a sham corporation and undervaluing assets to tax authorities. The Times says its report is based on more than 100,000 pages of financial documents, including confidential tax returns from the father and his companies.

A lawyer for Trump, Charles J. Harder, told the Times that there was no "fraud or tax evasion" and that the facts cited in the report are "extremely inaccurate."

The White House dismissed the report as a "misleading attack against the Trump family by the failing New York Times." It criticized the newspaper and other media outlets, saying their low credibility with the public is "because they are consumed with attacking the president and his family 24/7 instead of reporting the news."

The New York state tax department told The Associated Press that it is reviewing the allegations in the Times and "is vigorously pursuing all appropriate avenues of investigation." The department typically refers findings to the state attorney general's office.

The Times says the Trump family hid millions of dollars of transfers from the father to his children through a sham company owned by the children called All County Building Supply & Maintenance. Set up in 1992 ostensibly as a purchasing agent to supply Fred Trump's buildings with boilers, cleaning supplies and other goods, the father would pad invoices with markups of 20 percent or even 50 percent, thereby avoiding gift taxes, the newspaper reports.

The Times says that before Fred Trump died in the late 1990s, he transferred ownership of most of his real estate empire to his four living children. The value of the properties in tax returns summed up to \$41.4 million, vastly less than the Times says they were worth.

The same properties would be

sold off over the next decade for more than 16 times that amount.

In total, the president's father and mother transferred more than \$1 billion to their children, according to the Times tally. That should have produced a tax bill of at least \$550 million, based on a 55 percent tax on gifts and inheritance at the time.

Instead, the children paid \$52.2 million, or about 5 percent.

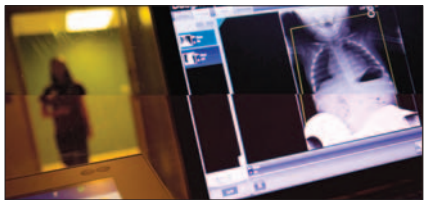
Tax experts cited in the report say that Trump is unlikely to face criminal prosecution in helping his parents evade taxes because the maneuvers occurred long ago and are past the statute of limitation.

The president's brother Robert Trump said that "all appropriate gift and estate tax returns" were filed. "Our family has no other comment on these matters that

happened some 20 years ago," he said in a statement to the Times, "and would appreciate your respecting the privacy of our deceased parents, may God rest their souls."

The Times report says documents it reviewed show that the future president was earning \$200,000 a year in today's dollars at the age of 3. By the time Trump had graduated from college, the report says, he was getting the equivalent of \$1 million a year from his father.

When he was campaigning, Trump repeatedly boasted of his ability to turn a small loan from his father into his fortune. "My father gave me a very small loan in 1975," he said, "and I built it into a company that's worth many, many billions of dollars."



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

A radiology technician looks at a child's chest X-ray earlier this year. The Trump administration is quietly trying to weaken radiation rules.

EPA seeks to change rules on exposure to radiation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The EPA is pursuing rule changes that experts say would weaken the way radiation exposure is regulated, turning to scientific outliers who argue that a bit of radiation damage is actually good for you — like a little bit of sunlight.

The government's current, decades-old guidance says that any exposure to harmful radiation is a cancer risk. Critics say the proposed change could lead to higher levels of exposure for workers at nuclear installations and oil and gas drilling sites, medical workers doing X-rays and CT scans, people living next to Superfund sites and any members of the public who one day might find themselves exposed to a radiation release.

The Trump administration already has targeted a range of other regulations on toxins and pollutants, including coal power plant emissions and car exhaust, that it sees as costly and burdensome for businesses. Supporters of the EPA's proposal argue the government's current model that there is no safe level of radiation — the so-called linear no-threshold model — forces unnecessary spending for handling exposure in accidents, at nuclear plants, in medical centers and at other sites.

It is the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule

on transparency in science.

EPA spokesman John Konkus said Tuesday: "The proposed regulation doesn't talk about radiation or any particular chemicals. And as we indicated in our response, EPA's policy is to continue to use the linear-no-threshold model for population-level radiation protection purposes which would not, under the proposed regulation that has not been finalized, trigger any change in that policy."

But in an April news release announcing the proposed rule, the agency quoted Edward Calabrese, a toxicologist at the University of Massachusetts who has said weakening limits on radiation exposure would save billions of dollars and have a positive impact on human health.

The proposed rule would require regulators to consider "various threshold models across the exposure range" when it comes to dangerous substances. While it doesn't specify radiation, the release quotes Calabrese calling the proposal "a major scientific step forward" in assessing the risk of "chemicals and radiation."

Konkus said the release was written during the tenure of former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. He could not explain why Calabrese was quoted citing the impact on radiation levels if the agency does not believe there would be any.

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NATION

Report: US unprepared for immigration policy

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Immigration officials were not prepared this past summer to manage the consequences of a “zero tolerance” policy at the Southwest border, which resulted in the separation of nearly 3,000 children from their parents, Homeland Security’s watchdog said in a report made public Tuesday.

The resulting confusion along the border led to misinformation among separated parents who did not know why they had been taken from their children or how to reach them, longer detention for children at border facilities meant for short-term stays, and difficulty in identifying and reunifying families. Backlogs at ports of

entry may have pushed some into illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, the report found.

While the Trump administration had been widely criticized for the policy, the criticism previously came mostly from political opponents and not from independent, nonpolitical investigators.

Investigators with Homeland Security’s Office of the Inspector General compiled the report after speaking with about 50 immigration employees, plus 17 detainees and parents who had been separated from their children and later released. They also reviewed documents and data, Homeland Security is the umbrella department for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Homeland Security officials

say the report illustrates how difficult it is to enforce broken and poorly written immigration laws. The inspector general, they said, wrongly mixed up what happens to immigrants caught crossing illegally between borders with immigrants who come to legal ports of entry seeking asylum.

“This administration will no longer turn a blind eye to illegal immigration and will continue to refer illegal border crossers for prosecution,” Homeland Security spokeswoman Katie Waldman said. “We are committed to enforcing the rule of law and ensuring that there are consequences for illegal actions.”

Illegally crossing the U.S. border had already been a criminal charge, but authorities had previously avoided large-scale family

separation. The Trump administration has made curbing immigration a major focus, working to harden what administration officials say are lax laws.

In May, officials began criminally prosecuting anyone caught crossing the border illegally. Children were separated from their parents as the adults went through criminal proceedings.

The move prompted international outrage, and President Donald Trump eventually signed an executive order stopping the separations. A lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of parents, and a judge ordered the families reunited. That process is ongoing, though the government has said it has reunited all eligible parents with children.

“Thousands of children are living with trauma because of the Trump administration’s family separation fiasco,” said Lee Giernt, lead lawyer on the ACLU case. “Some parents may never see their children again. This report shows not just the cruelty of the Trump administration’s actions, but also its ineptitude and historic failure of foresight in comprehending the devastating effects and fallout from this policy.”

A separate inspector general report on the conditions at border patrol facilities found that despite some being unclean, detainees had proper access to food, bathrooms and clean bedding. The report found no issues with temperatures inside the facilities, though immigrants often complain of freezing temperatures.

Hundreds of teacher candidates shaking up midterm elections

By CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

Last September, school speech therapist Kathy Hoffman was settling into the new academic year, working with youngsters in her small classroom behind a playground at Sahuaro Ranch Elementary School in a blue-collar neighborhood outside Phoenix.

This year, the political novice is gone from her classroom and on the campaign trail across Arizona full-time as the Democrats’ choice in the race to become superintendent of public education, overseeing the state’s schools. It’s a post typically held by career politicians or political insiders.

“My tipping point was realizing we need more teachers running for office, people who understand what it’s like in the classroom, who have seen the effect of having the lack of resources from our lawmakers,” Hoffman said.

Hundreds of current and former educators, most of them Democrats like Hoffman, are on general election ballots for positions from school board member to governor — far exceeding educator candidates prior to this year’s successful #RedForEd protests.

In her first campaign during the Democratic primary, Hoffman, 32, beat a former state senate minority leader, illustrating how much a surge in teacher activism centering on higher teacher pay and increased educational funding have shaken up November midterm elections around the U.S.

She and the other teacher candidates represent a wild-card political movement following the teacher-driven #RedForEd effort that drew support from parents and schoolchildren in Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma and West Virginia and also focused on outdated textbooks, crowded classrooms and teacher shortages.

Across the country, some educators have already won primary



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Kathy Hoffman, a public school speech therapist, is a Democratic candidate running for superintendent of public education in Phoenix.

races against the incumbent state legislators they blamed for public school spending cutbacks.

“It’s about standing up for what’s right and bringing that teacher’s voice to that position,” Hoffman said. “I felt it should come straight from the classroom.”

After years of dense education debates over teacher evaluations and the Common Core learning standards, the new teacher candidates’ simplified message for higher pay and more funding for schools represent “talking points (that) are resonating,” said Frederick Hess, director of education policy at the conservative American Enterprise Institute public policy think tank.

“What we might be seeing is the emergence of a number of individuals who will be an elected mainstream set of advocates for these teacher issues,” he said.

In the state senate races in Maine and Minnesota, teacher candidates could help flip state legislatures to Democratic control, according to Mara Sloan, spokeswoman for the Democratic

Legislative Campaign Committee. She said her group knows of 650 educators running for state legislative positions across the country this year and that more than 450 are Democrats.

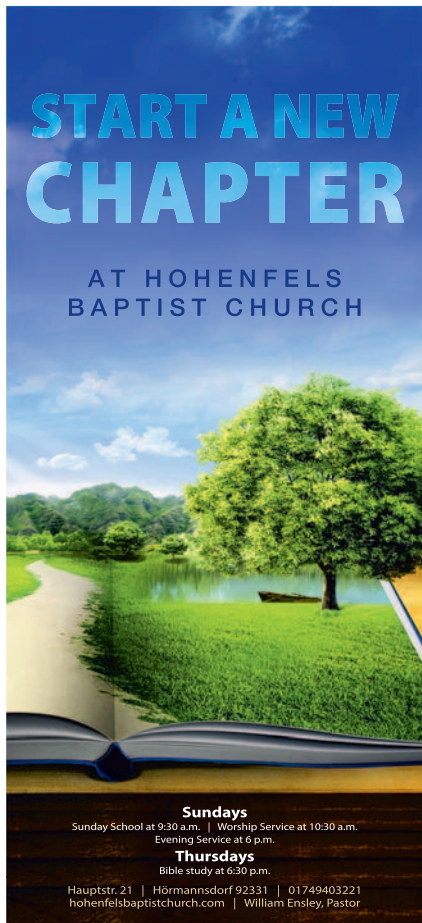
In Kentucky, at least 34 current and former teachers are on the ballot in the general election for seats in the state legislature, 29 of them Democrats. In Connecticut, former National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes won the Democratic primary for a U.S. House seat. The Oklahoma Education Association said 55 educators are running in the general election for the state legislature.

As for the Republicans, Oklahoma City assistant school principal Sherrie Conley upset three-term incumbent state lawmaker Bobby Cleveland in a primary runoff election. Cleveland is one of six Republican state House members in Oklahoma who lost their jobs after voting against a tax increase to fund a teacher pay raise.

Experts say it’s too soon to say what sort of impact the teacher candidates may have on policy if elected.

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NATION



ZACK WAISGRAS, THE (CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.) DAILY PROGRESS/AP

U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen speaks during a news conference Tuesday in Charlottesville, Va., regarding the arrest of four members of a militant white supremacist group in connection with last year's white nationalist torch-lit march and rally in Charlottesville.

4 arrested for conduct at Charlottesville rally

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Four members of a militant white supremacist group from California were arrested on charges they traveled to Virginia last year to incite a riot and attack counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally that turned deadly, federal authorities said Tuesday.

The defendants — Benjamin Drake Daley, Michael Paul Miselis, Thomas Walter Gillen and Cole Evan White — are part of the Rise Above Movement, which espouses anti-Semitic views and meets regularly in public parks to train in boxing and other fighting techniques, according to an affidavit written by an FBI agent.

The affidavit alleges the four were "among the most violent individuals present in Charlottesville" in August 2017 during a torch-lit march on the University of Virginia campus and a larger

rally in downtown the following day. It says photos and video footage shows they attacked counter-protesters, "which in some cases resulted in serious injuries." The men have also taken part in "acts of violence" at political rallies in Huntington Beach and Berkeley, Calif., the affidavit alleges.

"This is a group that essentially subscribes to an anti-Semitic, racist ideology and then organizes, trains and deploys to various political rallies, not only to espouse this particular ideology but also to engage in acts of violence against folks who are taking a contrary point of view," U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen said at a news conference in Charlottesville. The men were arrested Tuesday morning, Cullen said.

Los Angeles Magistrate Judge Jean Rosenbluth denied bail for Miselis; detention hearings for Gillen and Daley were postponed.

1 W.Va. justice to keep job as trial starts for another

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — One West Virginia Supreme Court justice has survived an impeachment scare. Another could face more serious consequences than the potential loss of his seat.

Beth Walker will remain in office after state senators rejected an impeachment article against her after a two-day trial. Tuesday's 32-1 vote with one senator absent came the same day a federal jury was seated in the criminal trial of suspended Justice Allen Loughry. Opening statements in that trial were scheduled Wednesday.

A two-thirds majority would have been required to remove Walker, whose 12-year term expires in 2028. Senators later adopted a resolution by voice vote to issue a public reprimand of Walker.

She was accused of abusing her authority. The impeachment charge stated Walker and other justices failed to control office expenses and maintain policies over matters such as working lunches and the use of state vehicles and office computers at home.

The impeachments of Walker, Loughry and justices Margaret Workman and Robin Davis stemmed from questions involving lavish renovations to the justices' offices. Those questions evolved into accusations of corruption, incompetence and neglect of duty.

A 25-count indictment includes allegations that Loughry repeatedly lied about using his office for personal gain. He earlier pleaded not guilty to the indictment.

Loughry was removed and suspended without pay earlier this year by the state's high court.

Missed deadlines shown to cost millions in disaster aid

By DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — As the floodwaters recede and the recovery begins, communities swamped by Hurricane Florence soon will be on the clock to document the billions of dollars in damage it caused if they want to be reimbursed by the federal government.

A missed deadline could be costly, even if it's not directly the fault of the affected community, according to an Associated Press analysis of recent appeals decided by top officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The AP found that tardiness is one of the most common reasons FEMA headquarters has denied appeals from cities, school districts and other public entities, accounting for well over \$100 million in lost appeals over the past 12 months alone. FEMA's strict enforcement of deadlines means it hasn't even considered the merits of some appeals.

As it has focused on punctuality, FEMA denied about four of every five funding appeals that rose to its headquarters over the past couple of years, up from a two-thirds denial rate over the prior decade, according to the AP's analysis.

"We have been increasingly looking to apply the timeframes

for the appeals," said FEMA's deputy director for public assistance, Tod Wells. "The objective is to establish a sound and reliable process," so communities hit by disasters such as Hurricane Florence can know what to expect.

Some on the losing end say another factor is in play — saving money.

"We recognize that in the last year FEMA has made many improvements to its management of appeals and created transparency in the process, and that a large reason for strict adherence to timeframes is to drive down the costs of disasters," said Patrick Sheehan, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA rejected \$11 million for a Nashville drinking water treatment plant flooded in 2010. The agency said it received the appeal years too late, though Sheehan contends it was submitted on time.

The recent appeal denials for missed deadlines include a total of \$67 million sought by the tornado-ravaged schools of Joplin, Mo., and \$3.3 million that FEMA ordered be repaid by the Miami suburb of Pembroke Pines for the cleanup of Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

"We followed to the 'T' all the FEMA requirements, and I can tell you they're very particular

about documentation and recording," said Pembroke Pines City Manager Charles Dodge. "To the best of my knowledge, that wasn't even looked it. It was just the question of 'Hey, we didn't get the form on time. Sorry folks, you're out. Pay us back.'"

FEMA relies on states to act as a go-between on such claims.

When FEMA reduced the city's previously approved aid in 2012, Pembroke Pines submitted an appeal within the required 60 days to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. But the state agency, which had another 60 days to forward it to FEMA, apparently failed to do so. FEMA says it didn't receive the appeals package until 2014. It denied the city's final appeal in August.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Wes Maul acknowledges the agency had poor case management, a problem he is trying to change.

The AP found that the apparent failure of state agencies to forward appeals in time to meet FEMA deadlines also contributed to denials of contested funding in Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee and Texas during the past year.

Since the AP first reported last year about FEMA's backlog of disaster aid appeals, data show the agency has improved the pace of its decision-making.



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NATION

Survey: More than 1 in 3 in US eat fast food daily

By KAREN KAPLAN
Los Angeles Times

If you're an adult in America, there's a better than 1 in 3 chance that you'll eat fast food today — if you haven't already.

New survey data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 36.6 percent of us eat some kind of fast food on any given day. That includes 37.9 percent of men and 35.4 percent of women, according to a report published Wednesday by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

Fast food is on the menu all day long. On a typical day, 22.7 percent of Americans get their breakfast from a fast-food outlet. At lunchtime, 43.7 percent of Americans pick up a quick meal, and 42 percent do the same for dinner. Another 22.8 percent get a snack from a fast-food joint. Clearly, many Americans are eating fast food more than once

per day.)

Nearly half of American men — 48.3 percent — eat fast food for lunch on any given day. That's significantly more than the 39.1 percent of women who do the same.

On the other hand, about 1 in 4 women (25.7 percent) treat themselves to a fast-food snack on a typical day, compared with 1 in 5 men (19.5 percent).

The conventional wisdom about fast food is that people eat it when they can't afford something better, due to a lack of money or a lack of time. But the report reveals that isn't necessarily the case.

In fact, the more money someone has, the more likely he or she is to partake of fast food on any given day.

Among those whose family income was less than or equal to 130 percent of the federal poverty line (which was set at \$11,770 for

a single person or \$24,250 for a family of four in 2016), 31.7 percent ate fast food on a typical day. Among middle-income families (whose income was between 130 and 350 percent of the poverty line), 36.4 percent ate fast food on a typical day. And among high-income families (those with incomes above 350 percent of the poverty line), 42 percent dined on fast food on a typical day.

That might make you wonder whether "fast food" included take-out sushi, Starbucks frappuccinos and organic berries from the farmers market. The definition used in the survey was vague: "restaurant fast food/pizza." It's certainly possible that some people interpreted that to mean something other than burgers, fried chicken and sub sandwiches.

The data show that the popularity of fast food varies by racial and ethnic group. Its biggest fans



CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE, ERIE (Pa.) TIMES-NEWS/AP

Fast-food restaurant signs line a street in Erie, Pa., in 2014. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study released Wednesday found 1 in 3 U.S. adults eat fast food on any given day.

are blacks, 42.4 percent of whom ate it on a typical day. It was the least enticing to Asian Americans, though 30.6 percent of them ate it on a typical day as well. In between were whites (37.8 percent) and Latinos (36.5 percent). By now, you might be wondering what it would take for Americans to dial back their addiction to fast food. The survey results suggest an answer: time.

Our taste for fast food seems to diminish with age. Peak fast-food

consumption occurs in our 20s and 30s — 44.9 percent of survey-takers in that age group ate fast food on a typical day. In middle age, that figure drops to 37.7 percent. And after we turn 60, only 24.1 percent of us rely on fast food for at least one of our daily meals or snacks.

The data in the study came from the CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey in the years 2013 through 2016.

German campaign highlights ties with US

Associated Press

BERLIN — Smarting from President Donald Trump's verbal attacks and perceived disregard for a long-time U.S. ally, Germany is launching a multimillion-dollar publicity campaign to highlight the country's close ties with the United States.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas planned to kick-start the charm offensive — a series of events headlined "Wunderbar Together" — during a visit Wednesday to Washington, where he was also to meet with his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to discuss Syria, the nuclear deal with Iran and relations with Russia.

"We are experiencing a serious crisis of multilateralism at a time when we need it most," Maas told The Associated Press in written comments before departing for the U.S. "Where one used to be able to rely blindly on many things — contracts, agreements and on each other — now there are more and more question marks. That's a political reality we have to deal with."

Berlin has struggled to come to terms with Trump's willingness to cast aside international agreements signed by his predecessors, such as the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accord. German officials from Chancellor Angela Merkel down have also expressed frustration at the U.S. president's



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas planned to kick off a campaign that highlights the country's close ties with the U.S.

broadside against Berlin over trade, immigration and defense spending.

Germany has pushed back in some areas, saying it's time to "reposition" the trans-Atlantic relationship. Officials such as Maas have taken a more assertive tone toward Washington, going so far as to openly break with the U.S. over the question of how to deal with Iran.

Still, Berlin has stressed that it feels indebted to the United States for its post-World War II generosity and protection and considers Washington its most important ally outside Europe.

"It's no secret that we have other political opinions in some areas than the American president," Maas told the AP. "But it's also clear: America is bigger than the White House."

The aim of the new German outreach campaign is to highlight economic, cultural and scientific ties between Germany and the United States, with a conscious effort to woo not just coastal elites but Middle America as well.

N. Korea said to have stolen fortune in online bank heists

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanctioned government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

U.S. security firm FireEye raised the alarm Wednesday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses "an active global threat."

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyberactivity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea — along with Russia, Iran and China — as one of the main online threats facing the United States.

Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to have conspired in devastating cyberattacks, including an \$81 million heist of Bangladesh's central bank and the WannaCrypt virus that crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned of the use of malware by Hidden Cobra, the U.S. government's byword for North Korea hackers, in fraudulent ATM cash withdrawals from banks in Asia and Africa. It said that Hidden Cobra has behind the theft of tens of millions of dollars from teller machines in the past two years. In one incident this year, cash had been simultaneously withdrawn from ATMs in 23 different countries, it said.

North Korea, which prohibits access to the world wide web for virtually all its people, has previously denied involvement in cyberattacks, and attribution for such attacks is rarely made with absolute certainty. It is typically based on technical indicators such as the Internet Protocol addresses that identify computers and characteristics of the coding used in malware, which is the software a hacker may use to damage or disrupt computers.

Other cybersecurity experts told The Associated

Press that they also see continued signs that North Korea's authoritarian government, which has a long track record of criminality to raise cash, is conducting malign activity online. That activity includes targeting of financial institutions and crypto-currency-related organizations, as well as spying on its adversaries, despite the easing of tensions between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The reality is they are starved for cash and are continuing to try and generate revenue, at least until sanctions are diminished," said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike.

CrowdStrike said it has detected continued North Korean cyberintrusions in the past two months, including the use of a known malware against a potentially broad set of targets in South Korea, and a new variant of malware against users of mobile devices that use a Linux-based operating system.

FireEye says APT38, the name it gives to the hacking group dedicated to bank theft, has emerged and stepped up its operations since February 2014 as the economic vise on North Korea has tightened in response to its nuclear and missile tests. Initial operations targeted financial institutions in Southeast Asia, where North Korea had experience in money laundering, but then expanded into other regions such as Latin America and Africa, and then extended to Europe and North America.

In all, FireEye said APT38 has attempted to steal \$1.1 billion, and based on the data it can confirm, has gotten away with hundreds of millions of dollars. It has used malware to insert fraudulent transactions in the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT, system that is used to transfer money between banks.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank, said in a report Wednesday that North Korea's cyber capabilities provide an alternative means for challenging its adversaries. While Kim's hereditary regime appears to prioritize currency generation, attacks using the SWIFT system raise concerns that North Korean hackers "may become more proficient at manipulating the data and systems that undergird the global financial system," it says.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Toys R Us lenders work to bring brand back

By ELIZA RONALDS-HANNON
AND LAUREN
COLEMAN-LOCHNER
Bloomberg

The same Toys R Us lenders that have been taking heat for their role in the decision to liquidate the company in March are now working on bringing the brand back to life, according to new court documents.

In a bankruptcy court filing Monday, the funds that now control Toys R Us said they'd canceled a plan to auction off the

company's intellectual property. Instead, they are seeking to reorganize the assets into a new company that will maintain the current license agreements and can invest in new retail operating businesses.

Maintaining the brands under a new independent U.S. business is the best option with respect to the recovery of the Toys R Us estate, as well as the benefit of other indirect and direct stakeholders, according to the filing. "The qualified bids were not rea-

sonably likely to yield a superior alternative," the filing said. The court authorized the cancellation of the auction.

A group of funds that financed Toys R Us lenders during the bankruptcy now control rights to the company's name and that of Babies R Us, because the intellectual property served as collateral on their loans. The group includes Solus Alternative Asset Management and Angelo Gordon.

As owners of the new entity, the funds will have discretion

over trademarks and receive royalty payments from their use internationally.

But it may prove difficult to ramp up U.S. operations again given the fallout from the protracted bankruptcy process. Major suppliers including Mattel Inc. and Hasbro Inc. have found new distributors, and customers have largely moved on.

Toys R Us has sold all of its stores and distribution centers, with some of the most valuable retail space going to a separate

group of secured creditors. The rest of the stores were either taken over by landlords or the leases sold to other retailers.

Solus and Oaktree have been battling a group of lenders, including Cerberus Capital Management and Cyrus Capital Partners who are trying to take over Toys R Us' Asia operations. The two groups of lenders have fought over how much the Asia stores should pay to use the Toys R Us name and other intellectual property.

Poll: Many young in US see better financial future

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
Associated Press

About half of young Americans expect to be financially better off than their parents, according to a new poll, a sign that the dream of upward mobility is alive but somewhat tempered.

The poll, by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV, found that half of 15- to 26-year-olds think they eventually will be better off than their parents in terms of household finances. About 29 percent expect to do as well as their parents, and 20 percent expect to be worse off.

Parents were slightly more optimistic: 60 percent think their children will do better than they did, a view that held true for parents across all income groups. Overall, only 12 percent of parents said they felt their children might do worse.

It's no longer a guarantee that children will achieve upward income mobility. About half of the

Americans born in 1984 earned more at age 30 than their parents, down from 92 percent in 1940, according to the study by famed economist Raj Chetty and others that was released in 2016.

Jennifer Narvaez, 23, is among those who anticipates her financial future will be a bit brighter than that of her parents. Narvaez said she expects to have more opportunities as a college graduate to get a job and own a home than her parents, who grew up in Nicaragua and immigrated to the United States. The Miami resident holds an undergraduate degree in biology and is planning to attend medical school to become a cardiologist.

Narvaez is less certain about the prospects of the U.S. economy, particularly as the nation appears to be marching into a trade war with China.

"It's a weird time," she said. "I feel like it's hard to predict what will happen because of the kind of administration we have."

Alex Barner, 20, also felt opti-

mistic that he might fare better than his mother, who had him at age 18 and raised him as a single mother. He is attending college in New Mexico and is considering a future career in business management.

While Barner is hopeful he will do well in life, he also has some concerns about the trajectory of the nation and its economy. Like Narvaez, he's concerned by the trade policy of President Donald Trump's administration.

Barner also said he feels politicians need to focus more on matters that affect people in the here and now, such as health care and student loan relief.

Respondents were divided about how they expect the nation's economy will fare in the year ahead. About 29 percent of young people expect the economy to improve, 30 percent expect it will get worse and 41 anticipate it will stay the same. Similarly, 35 percent of parents expect improvement, 27 percent expect conditions to get worse and 38 percent expect the

economy to stay as is.

The Youth Political Pulse poll was conducted Aug. 23 to Sept. 10. The poll was conducted using NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It includes 580 young people ages 15-26 and 591 parents of children in the same age group.

The margin of sampling error for all young people is plus or minus 6.6 percentage points and for parents plus or minus 7.5 percentage points.

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 2, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	122.73
	26,773.94
Nasdaq composite	-37.76
	7,999.55
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.16
	2,923.43
Russell 2000	-16.95
	1,656.04

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 4)	\$1.1837
Dollar buys (Oct. 4)	€0.8448
British pound (Oct. 4)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (Oct. 4)	¥111.00
South Korean won (Oct. 4)	₩1,087.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3004
Canada (Dollar)	1.2839
China (Yuan)	6.8835
Denmark (Krone)	6.4644
Egypt (Pound)	17.9284
Euro	\$1.1535/8669
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8367
Hungary (Forint)	278.52
Israel (Shekel)	3.6269
Japan (Yen)	113.88
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3036
Norway (Krone)	8.1830
Philippines (Peso)	54.22
Poland (Zloty)	3.72
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7596
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3763
Singapore (Won)	1,126.52
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9887
Thailand (Baht)	32.40
Turkey (New Lira)	0.3246

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federals funds market rate	1.18
3-month bill	2.18
30-year bond	3.21

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NATION

Lawmakers buy industry's school security fixes

By REESE DUNKLIN
AND JUSTIN PREITCHARD
Associated Press

Security companies spent years pushing schools to buy more products — from “ballistic attack-resistant” doors to smoke cannons that spew haze from ceilings to confuse a shooter. But sales were slow, and industry's campaign to free up taxpayer money for upgrades had stalled.

That changed last February, when a former student shot and killed 17 people at a Florida high school. Publicly, the rampage reignited the U.S. gun control debate. Privately, it propelled industry efforts to sell school fortification as the answer to the mass killing of American kids.

Since that attack, security firms and nonprofit groups linked to the industry have persuaded lawmakers to elevate the often costly “hardening” of schools over other measures that researchers and educators say are proven to reduce violence, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The industry helped Congress draft a law that committed \$350 million to equipment and other school security over the next decade. Nearly 20 states have come up with another \$450 million, and local school districts are reworking budgets to find more money.

Most everyone agrees that schools can be more secure with layers of protection, such as perimeter fencing, limited entrances and hiding spaces inside classrooms.

But there's no independent research supporting the use of most of the high-tech hardware and gadgets schools are buying will save lives, according to two 2016 reports prepared for the U.S. Justice Department. As with high-profile shootings in the past, that has not stopped industry representatives from rushing in some missing statistics on school violence to stoke fears that “soft target” schools could be victims of terrorist attacks or negligence lawsuits.

‘Wild, Wild West’

“School safety is the Wild, Wild West,” said Mason Wooldridge, a security consultant who helps school districts assess their vulnerabilities. “Any company can claim anything they want.”

Wooldridge knows from experience. Several years ago, he helped outfit an Indiana high school with a \$500,000 security system that includes smoke cannons. Now out of sales, he says a school that wanted a system with the same level of security could get it for about \$100,000, using less equipment but equally effective equipment.

Many proponents of hardening a school like an airport or police station have backgrounds in law enforcement or the military. Some have little experience or qualification. The Ohio man dubbed “Joe the Plumber” during the 2008 presidential campaign has been appearing on school



A bullet-resistant lock installed by NetTalon Security Systems is seen in 2008 on the door of a classroom at McKinley Middle Magnet School in Baton Rouge, La.

RICHARD ALAN HANNON, THE (BATON ROUGE, LA.) ADVOCATE/AP

safety conference panels to hawk a cheaper lockdown alternative.

Educators worry that hardening will siphon focus and money from programs that prevent bullying and counsel at-risk kids. Students have reported in government surveys that visible security measures like metal detectors and armed officers make them feel less safe.

Industry representatives say they support other solutions to preventing school gun deaths, but insist hardening hasn't gotten the chance it deserves.

“There really needs to be a change in thinking that recognizes security is a primary need in schools,” said Jake Parker, director of government relations for the Security Industry Association, which has been central to the hardening effort. Also, he acknowledged, “The more schools protect themselves, the better it is for industry.”

Revenue for school security companies would grow even more than analysts project if the industry succeeds in plans to craft state legislation that would set minimum standards for campus equipment purchases.

There are no widely accepted, independent standards for school building security, as there are for the plumbing, fire protection systems and even athletic bleachers on campus. To fill that void, security companies have promoted their own takes on what “best practices” for school security should be. At least one state has turned such standards into law.

Industry-written guidelines set a steep price for cash-strapped districts. According to a nonprofit group formed by a major lock manufacturer, for example, upgrading an elementary school with basic security equipment costs at least \$94,000 and a high school at least \$170,000. If all the nation's public schools were to follow those guidelines, the cost would total at least \$11 billion, ac-

cording to industry calculations.

Hardening advocates acknowledge that mass upgrades would not eliminate shootings. Many shooters are students whose familiarity with a school's layout and security could help them outsmart even elaborate safeguards.

Low-tech solutions may also work just as well. Leaders at one school district in New Jersey heard a vendor's pitch for classroom doors that lock automatically and simply mandated that teachers lock their doors during class, saving several hundred thousand dollars.

“If we're just expecting technology to solve all these problems, I think we're going to fall short,” said Ronald Stephens, executive director of the California-based National School Safety Center, created originally as a federal program under the Reagan administration. “And we may not like the climate we create.”

‘Extremely soft targets’

Max Schachter was grieving the loss of his son, Alex, and became enraged when he learned of the successive failures at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

School counselors and law enforcement had received warnings about the shooter's worrisome behavior. His bullets shattered standard-issue classroom door windows, providing access to victims such as Alex, as the school's only armed safety officer hid.

With one child still enrolled and a middle schooler on the way, Schachter searched for ways to make Stoneman Douglas High safer. He found Southwestern Junior-Senior High School in Shelbyville, Ind. The campus had become known as the “Safest School in America” after the \$500,000 retrofit that Wooldridge helped install for his step-father's firm, NetTalon Security Systems.

The Indiana Sheriff's Associa-

tion, an early backer of NetTalon's safety package, arranged a private tour. Schachter returned to Florida impressed. Putting his life insurance career on hold, he has fast become a leading school safety activist and important ally of the hardening movement.

“After 9/11, we hardened the cockpits and the airports,” Schachter testified during a hearing of the Federal Commission on School Safety created by President Donald Trump after Parkland. “The reasons these monsters are still attacking our schools is because they're extremely soft targets.”

Rampages uncommon

As horrific as they are, shooting rampages in America's 122,000 public and private elementary and secondary schools are uncommon, though more prevalent than elsewhere in the world.

An AP analysis of FBI statistics showed 35 active shootings at elementary, middle or high schools, resulting in the deaths of 61 students and staff members, from 2000 to 2017, the last year included by the FBI. The AP's analysis shows that active shootings, defined by the FBI as a gunman trying to kill in a confined and populated area, had not appreciably increased at schools during that time. But in the first five months of this year, two major shootings — in Parkland, Fla., and at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas — left 27 students or staffers dead.

In making a case for hardening, proponents have asserted big increases in school gun violence in recent years. Some have done so by including mass shootings that happened anywhere, not just those at schools. Others used data that included incidents at schools that weren't attacks on students or employees, but were instead accidental discharges, suicides or community violence that spilled

onto campus, sometimes after hours.

Many experts say that schools remain among the safest places for children. Rob Evans, a retired state police captain who is the Vermont education agency's school safety liaison, calls school shootings “low-probability events” and noted kids are more likely to die in other ways — including, data show, crossing a street. But the horror of shootings jolts public policy, and schools race to show a nervous public they're taking action.

“We've got to take the passion out of it,” Evans said. “If we're going to spend a dollar, let's spend a smart dollar.”

Cost of security

Education security revenue in the U.S. was about \$2.5 billion in 2017, approximately 60 percent generated by elementary and secondary schools, according to the research firm IHS Markit. The firm had projected anemic growth for several years but, after Parkland, revised its forecast to \$3 billion by 2019.

The flow of money has created opportunities for businesses new to school security.

“Joe the Plumber” Wurzelbacher is working with a company that incorporated two months after Parkland to sell a \$139.99 “SwiftShield” that slides around a classroom door handle so a shooter cannot enter.

The company began sponsoring panels at school security conferences that featured the one-time political star. Wurzelbacher acknowledged skepticism at those conferences but said his concern is genuine: His adult son is a teacher, and he has three children ages 5 and under.

The SwiftShield barricade device, invented by a roofer, offers schools “unparalleled” safety, the company claims. It sells for one-twentieth the cost of some bullet-resistant doors or high-tech locking systems — and about 200 districts have expressed interest, Wurzelbacher said. Companies selling higher-priced security alternatives are protecting their turf when they argue barricade-style devices violate safety codes in many states, he said.

“There's going to be a lot of money to be made here,” Wurzelbacher said. “I think there's a lot of people who are offering school systems an illusion of security, as opposed to real security.”

Some educators fear that increased spending on school fortifications will lead to cuts to programs that involve human intervention, such as mental health care.

Campuses are safer when students feel comfortable reporting suspicious behavior and staff are trained in deciphering whether that behavior is dangerous, according to school psychologists like Tricia Daniel. Armoring schools like fortresses can make students feel like they are serving a sentence, she said, not getting an education.

WORLD

Aid trickles in as Indonesian death toll tops 1,400

By STEPHEN WRIGHT

Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia — For some who survived the massive earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island last week, the memories and the horror of experiencing a disaster that has left more than 1,400 people dead are both hard to erase and understand. Nature simply unleashed its fury on them.

Furniture maker Khairul Hasan recalled working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground came alive and shook violently. He ran to a nearby hill and watched as the ocean heaved up and hurled forward. Now he can't forget.

"I saw the waves come and sweep out everything—buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children," he said Wednesday. "Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods all swept by the sea. It's so tragic. It's so scary to remember."

Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas where victims have become increasingly desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine. In neighborhoods in the city of Palu, residents celebrated as they swarmed a truck delivering aid—clapping, cheering and high-fiving.

The official death toll increased to 1,407 on Wednesday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced from their homes, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but rescue crews had reached all affected areas.

The U.N. humanitarian office estimated that some 200,000 people need assistance in the disaster zone and announced a \$15 million allocation to bolster relief efforts. Help has been slow to reach many

victims, especially those living in areas cut off by impassable roads. But large fuel and food convoys, guarded by security forces, have been making their way in.

In addition to the quake and tsunami, Indonesia also demonstrated Wednesday what it means to sit on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" when a volcano erupted in another part of Sulawesi island about 585 miles northeast of the earthquake zone.

More than 25 countries offered assistance after President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo appealed for international help. He visited the disaster zone Wednesday, saying there's still work to be done, but that conditions were improving, with businesses starting to reopen, helping people to start returning their lives to normal. He said President Donald Trump called him Tuesday night, offering assistance.

"We are going in phases. There are lots of things happening related to evacuation, as aid and fuel are also coming in," he said, noting that 30 people remain buried under rubble at the Roa Roa Hotel in Palu. "Every province has different cases, including security."

Following widespread looting and aid vehicles being stopped and surrounded by people on roads, Indonesian military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said one soldier and one police officer would be placed on every aid truck and soldiers would be sent to secure markets, the airport and fuel depots to maintain order. He added that a Singaporean military transport plane will help evacuate victims from the airport in Palu. In addition, aircraft from South Korea, the United Kingdom and Japan were expected to ferry aid.

Australia announced it will send 50 medical professionals as part of a \$3.6 million aid package. The U.S. and China are among other countries that have offered assistance.



TATAN SYUFLANA/AP

A police K-9 unit continues to search for victims Wednesday in the wreckage following earthquakes and tsunami in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Volcano erupts on same island hit by quake

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A volcano erupted Wednesday on the same central Indonesian island struck last week by a powerful earthquake and tsunami, and authorities warned planes about volcanic ash in the air.

Mount Soputan on Sulawesi island spewed a massive column of ash more than 19,700 feet into the sky. No evacuations were immediately ordered.

A government volcanologist said it's possible the eruption was accelerated by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck on Friday.

"It could be that this earthquake triggered the eruption, but we have seen an increase in volcanic activity since July and this began surging on

Monday. Yet we can't say there a direct link, as the mountain is quite far away," Kasbani, the head of Indonesia's Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Agency, said on local television.

Kasbani, who uses one name, said planes have been warned to avoid the area.

National disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho dismissed concerns that the volcano's eruption could affect planes transporting aid and supplies to the quake disaster areas.

Nugroho said volcanic ash is not heading to the city of Palu, where most of the victims from the quake and tsunami are from, as the wind is blowing in another direction. He said it hasn't disrupted plane services or affected any evacuations from the disaster areas.

Chilean church apologizes for conduct guidelines for priests

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO

AND PATRICIA LUNA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chile's Roman Catholic Church has apologized for a set of conduct guidelines for priests dealing with children that has caused outrage just as the South American country is being rocked by a widespread clerical sex abuse scandal.

The recommendations include asking priests not to "touch the area of the genitals or the chest" of minors, kiss them on the mouth, spank them on the buttocks or "lie down to sleep next to boys, girls or teenagers." Priests are told to "avoid some behaviors," including taking photographs of a child, teen or vulnerable person when they're naked because it could be "misinterpreted."

The document published on the site of the archbishopric of Santiago was signed by Cardinal Ricardo Ezzati. He is under investigation by prosecutors for allegedly covering up years of abuse, and was expected to be questioned Wednesday.

'This is a bizarre and frightening document. It reveals the dangerous mindset of the Chilean bishops'

Anne Barrett Doyle

BishopAccountability.org

The guidelines were expected to come into effect in April 2019. But after a flurry of criticism, the Chilean church removed the document shortly after it was published Friday.

"We've made a mistake and we're going to fix it," Auxiliary Santiago Bishop Cristian Roncagliolo said. "A crime is a crime."

The so-called "Guidelines fomenting the good treatment and healthy pastoral coexistence" do not mention sex abuse. They refer to "painful acts" or "equivocal signs."

Jaime Coiro, the spokesman for the Chilean bishops' conference, issued a statement asking Chileans to refer to guidelines for the prevention of abuse against minors

published in 2015 that he said were distributed nationwide.

But some victims and activists say they're still shocked by the lack of sensitivity in a country where Pope Francis has acknowledged that he had underestimated the pervasiveness of pedophile priests and other church abuse.

"This is a bizarre and frightening document. It reveals the dangerous mindset of the Chilean bishops," said Anne Barrett Doyle of the online abuse database BishopAccountability.org.

"Even in this era of supposed penitence and reform, they remain weirdly removed from healthy social norms of child protection," she said. "The recommendations give us a window into the rationalizations

of Cardinal Ezzati in particular. They show his apparent inability to be horrified at behavior that constitutes child molestation."

Some advocates for victims say the recent guidelines should have instead stipulated that priests who practice these abhorrent behaviors will be removed permanently from ministry and reported to law enforcement.

"This so-called handbook published by the archdiocese... is an embarrassment," said Jaime Concha, who says he was 12 years old when he was raped by a member of the Marist Brothers order in Chile during a Boy Scout field trip in the 1970s. "It describes actions that are violations of human rights of children and teenagers like me who are victims of clerical abuse."

Chilean prosecutors say there are more than 120 ongoing investigations into clerical sex abuse of minors.

The pope has criticized Chile's bishops for destroying evidence of sex crimes, pressuring church lawyers to minimize accusations and neglecting to protect children from pedophile priests.

WORLD

Court orders US to lift some Iran sanctions

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The United Nations' highest court on Wednesday ordered the United States to lift sanctions on Iran that affect imports of humanitarian goods and products and services linked to the safety of civil aviation.

The ruling by the International Court of Justice is legally binding, but it remains to be seen if the administration of President Donald Trump will comply.

Trump moved to restore tough U.S. sanctions in May after with-

drawing from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers. Iran challenged the sanctions in a case filed in July at the International Court of Justice.

In a preliminary ruling, the court said that Washington must "remove, by means of its choosing, any impediments arising from" the reimposition of sanctions to the export to Iran of medicine and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities and spare parts and equipment necessary to ensure the safety of civil aviation.

While imposing the so-called "provisional measures," the

court's president, Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, stressed that the case will continue and the United States could still challenge the court's jurisdiction.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif praised the court ruling on Twitter, calling it "another failure for sanctions-addicted" U.S. and a "victory for rule of law." He added that it is imperative for the international community "to collectively counter malign US unilateralism."

Iranian state television trumpeted the court's decision in a scrolling graphic at the bottom of TV screens: "The victory of

Tehran over Washington by the Hague Court."

U.S. diplomats in The Hague had no immediate reaction.

The U.S. is expected to challenge the court's jurisdiction in a future hearing. No date has been set for further hearings in the case.

At hearings in August, Tehran sought the suspension of the sanctions while the case challenging their legality is being heard — a process that can take years. U.S. lawyers responded that the sanctions are a legal and justified national security measure that cannot be challenged by Tehran at the world court.

In its decision, the court said that the U.S. sanctions "have the potential to endanger civil aviation safety" in Iran and that sanctions limiting sales of goods required for humanitarian needs such as food, medicines and medical devices "may have a serious detrimental impact on the health and lives of individuals on the territory of Iran."

The court said that the Trump administration must "ensure that licenses and necessary authorizations are granted" and payments not restricted if they are linked to the humanitarian and aviation goods.

US, British scientists win chemistry Nobel

By DAVID KEYTON
AND JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Three researchers who "harnessed the power of evolution" to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to new drugs and biofuels have been named winners of the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Half of the \$1.01 million prize goes to Frances Arnold, of the California Institute of Technology. The other half is shared by George Smith, of the University of Missouri, and Gregory Winter, of the MRC molecular biology lab in Cambridge, England.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which chose the winners on Wednesday, said Arnold conducted the first directed evolution of enzymes, whose uses include "more environmentally friendly manufacturing of chemical substances such as pharmaceuticals and the production of renewable fuels."

Smith developed a method to evolve new proteins, and Winter used the method to evolve antibodies, which are disease-fighting proteins in the blood.

The first pharmaceutical based on Winter's work was approved

for use in 2002 and is employed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases, the academy said.

Reached by The Associated Press Wednesday, Smith credited others for the work that led to his breakthrough.

"Very few research breakthroughs are novel," he said. "Virtually all of them build on what went on before. It's happenstance. That was certainly the case with my work."

"Mine was an idea in a line of research that built very naturally on the lines of research that went before."

Smith said he learned of the prize in a pre-dawn phone call from Stockholm.

"It's a standard joke that someone with a Swedish accent calls and says you won! But there was so much staccato on the line, I knew it wasn't any of my friends," he said.

The medicine prize was awarded Monday to American and Japanese researchers. Scientists from the U.S., Canada and France shared the physics prize Tuesday for advances in laser technologies.

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is to be announced Friday.

Zimbabwe begins huge cholera vaccination drive

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe has embarked on a massive vaccination drive as it battles a cholera outbreak that has killed at least 49 people.

Health Minister Obadiah Moyo said the vaccination campaign, with help from the World Health Organization, is targeting more than 500,000 people between Wednesday and Sunday. Moyo said close to 1 million more people will be vaccinated starting next week.

The government says the outbreak has sickened more than 9,000 people mostly in the capital, Harare, since September.

Many fear a repeat of 2008 when cholera killed more than 4,000 people at the height of the southern African country's economic and political problems.

Water and sewer infrastructure has collapsed, with raw sewage flowing in some Harare streets. Recently elected President Emerson Mnangagwa has vowed to fight the "medieval" disease.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Newly elected Iraqi President Barham Salih, center, inspects an honor guard in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Iraq's president takes office, taps independent as prime minister

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A veteran Kurdish politician assumed office on Wednesday as Iraq's new president after tapping an independent Shiite politician for the post of prime minister, ending nearly five months of political deadlock.

Barham Salih, 58, who previously served as Iraq's planning minister and the prime minister of the self-ruled Kurdish region, was elected president by parliament and sworn in on Tuesday. He then tapped Adel Abdul-Mahdi, 76, an independent Shiite politician and former vice president, to form the next government.

Under an unofficial agreement dating to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, Iraq's presidency — a largely ceremonial role — is held by a Kurd, while the prime minister is Shiite and the parliament speaker is Sunni. Both Salih and Abdul-Mahdi are longstanding members of the political class that has dominated Iraqi politics since then.

On Wednesday, State TV broadcast a formal handover ceremony at the presidential palace in Baghdad's Green Zone, where Salih was saluted by an honor guard and received by former President Fuaad Masum.

Abdul-Mahdi emerged as a compromise candidate after two Shiite-led blocs each claimed to have majority support in parliament. He had strong backing from Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose followers won the most seats in the May elections and who formed a bloc with the current prime minister, Haider al-Abadi.

The other bloc, which is dominated by politicians and militia leaders close to Iran, initially rejected Abdul-Mahdi but then agreed to support him after Sunni and Kurdish parties rallied to his side, according to a Shiite politician who took part in the discussions. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media.

The politician said Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, had made it clear through mediators that the job of prime minister should not go to someone who had held the post before, and he had urged consensus.

"The opinion yesterday was to have Abdul-Mahdi tasked quickly in order not to delay the process any further," the politician said.

Abdul-Mahdi is an economist by training who comes from a prominent Shiite tribe based in southern Iraq.

He has 30 days to submit his Cabinet to parliament for approval.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teens allegedly commit sex act in classroom

CT NEW BRITAIN — Police said two Connecticut high school students are facing charges after allegedly engaging in a sex act in a classroom that was recorded by another student and posted on social media.

New Britain police said the 16-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy will be summoned to juvenile court to answer to charges of public indecency and risk of injury or impairing the morals of a minor.

Police said the Sept. 27 encounter at New Britain High School was consensual. Both students were released to their parents.

'Bad Luck Bandit' hit by brick during burglary

MD SUTTLAND — Maryland police are searching for a man they've dubbed the "Bad Luck Bandit" who was hit on the head by a brick he threw at a store window.

News outlets reported that the Prince George's County Police Department said Monday a man was caught on surveillance footage breaking into a restaurant last month with a brick. Police said the man shattered the store's front window, walked in and then tried to use the same brick to break what turned out to be bulletproof glass.

Police said that as the man repeatedly tried to break the window, the brick bounced back and apparently hit the man in the head. He fell down and lay there for a few minutes before leaving.

Bowling alley owner gets stuck in pinsetter, dies

CO FLORENCE — The owner of a southern Colorado bowling alley died after getting stuck in a pinsetter machine.

Police in Florence said they responded to a call Sunday afternoon and found Ector Rodriguez, 65, of Penrose, stuck in the machine. He was unconscious and not breathing.

Emergency responders determined he was dead.

Florence police Chief Michael De Laurentis said no foul play is suspected.

FBI agent shot in leg by rigged wheelchair

OR PORTLAND — A former southern Oregon property owner has been charged with assault on a federal officer after authorities say an FBI agent sent to the property was shot from a booby-trapped wheelchair.

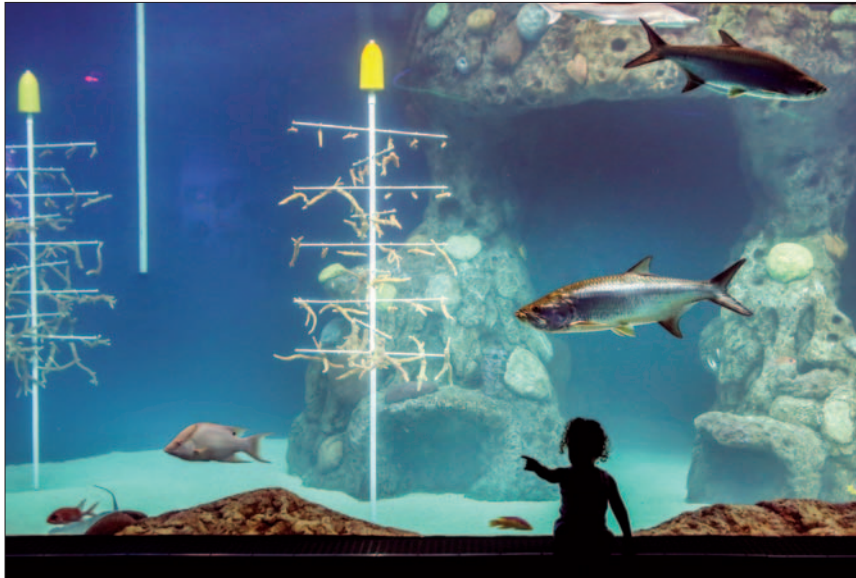
The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that authorities responded to the home in Williams on Sept. 7 at the request of a lawyer tasked with selling the property. A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Medford says officers found multiple traps and the agent was wounded in the leg when he entered the home.

Authorities allege the makeshift weapons were created by Gregory Rodvelt, who was forced to forfeit his property as part of

THE CENSUS

\$10.9K

The amount a tattered U.S. flag that was captured on a live camera flying from the Frying Pan Tower in North Carolina during Hurricane Florence sold for on eBay Inc. News outlets reported that viewers watched the flag get ripped apart as the storm reached the North Carolina coast last month. eBay said 25 people bid a total of 96 times for the flag. It's not known who made the winning bid. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross and its relief efforts. Richard Neal, of Charlotte, N.C., owns Frying Pan Tower, which is an old Coast Guard light station 32 miles off the coast. The site is now a bed-and-breakfast operated by Neal and his partners.



BRONTE WITPPEN, THE TAMPA (FLA.) BAY TIMES/AP

Appreciating the Heart of the Sea

Hand-constructed staghorn coral trees stand tall in the new 100,000-gallon Heart of the Sea exhibit at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa on Monday. The exhibit is the aquarium's second-largest habitat and houses two rescued sea turtles, including the Loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles. It also includes sting rays, a nurse shark named Charlie, bonnethead sharks, a baby grouper, hog fish and more.

an elder abuse case.

The Mail Tribune reported that Rodvelt is being held in Arizona's Maricopa County Jail on unrelated assault trial charges.

Man tries to buy girl from mom at Walmart

FL PORT ORANGE — Police said an elderly man attempted to buy an 8-year-old girl from her mother for \$200,000 at a Florida Walmart.

WKMG-TV reported that Port Orange police said Hellmuth Kolb, 81, was arrested Saturday and charged with simple battery and false imprisonment.

Police said Tracy Nigh was sitting with her daughter on a bench inside the Walmart when Kolb approached, asked if she was married and started bidding on her daughter.

Nigh said she got up to leave but Kolb grabbed her daughter and kissed her wrist. An arrest report says Nigh left with her daughter and alerted store security.

Authorities said another woman described a similar experience.

Man accused of theft, setting gas pump afire

LA NEW ORLEANS — A Louisiana man is accused of setting a New Orleans gas pump on fire with a lighter stolen from the gas station's convenience store.

Citing a Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal release, The New Orleans Advocate reported that Marlon Coleman, 32, was arrested Sunday and charged with aggravated arson.

Another man put out the blaze. The news release says Coleman then asked the man to be a witness in a lawsuit Coleman planned to file and the man declined.

Coleman was identified through store surveillance video.

Cows escape after livestock truck crashes

GA ATLANTA — Officials in Georgia had to call in the cavalry Monday after dozens of cows escaped when a tractor-trailer transporting them

overturned on a busy junction north of Atlanta.

The truck carrying 89 cows overturned about 3 a.m. on the cloverleaf of Interstate 75 and I-285. Many of the cows scattered, causing wrecks and clogging rush-hour traffic.

The effort to round up the herd included real cowboys, the Georgia Department of Transportation said.

Cobb County police Sgt. Wayne Delk said 87 of the cows had been accounted for by Monday afternoon. Ten cows were killed, and two were still missing.

Man cooking chicken starts apartment fire

VT NEWPORT — Firefighters in Vermont knocked down a fire that began when a man fell asleep while cooking chicken.

Newport City fire Lt. James LeClair and firefighter Ryan Abel arrived at the scene late Friday to find heavy smoke in a first-floor apartment. The Caledonian-Record reported that the occupant, known to neighbors as "Dave," fell

asleep while cooking and his pants caught fire.

Neighbor Lorraine Jensen reported the fire after hearing a smoke alarm go off.

Abel and LeClair said they plunged into the apartment and pulled out the man, then snuffed out the fire by tossing the flaming pan into the apartment building driveway.

Teens accused in theft, damage to vehicles

MO ST. PETERS — Three teenagers are in custody for allegedly stealing vehicles at a suburban St. Louis dealership and ramming one of them through a glass showroom window.

The suspects are 14, 17 and 19. A security monitoring company alerted police to a robbery in progress at 3:25 a.m. Sept. 24 at a CarMax in St. Peters.

One of the suspects was arrested immediately and the other two hours later.

Police said total damage from the crime was around \$175,000.

From wire reports

FACES

Finding herself

Whirlwind year lets Michelle Williams realize her own worth

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Michelle Williams can't believe it's been less than a year since "the pay stuff." Time has seemingly accelerated since last October when, while shooting the comic book movie "Venom," the unimaginable began to happen: Titans of her industry started to fall under #MeToo. Then months later, after reshoots for "All the Money in the World," which were hurriedly completed to remove scenes featuring one of the accused, Kevin Spacey, Williams became the center of a very public controversy over a vast pay discrepancy between herself and her co-star Mark Wahlberg. She was paid less than \$1,000. He got \$1.5 million.

It's also a year in which she married musician Phil Elverum, and started making some atypical career choices for a four-time Oscar nominee who has in her adulthood always veered toward art house films of directors like Kelly Reichardt and away from the commercial, from big budgets and from comic book films like the one she's currently promoting.

During a promotional day for her latest film, "Venom," Williams cranes her neck to look at the somewhat grotesque poster behind her, half of which is star Tom Hardy's face, and the other half is the tar-like people-eating alien "symbiote" that he becomes. "None," she says. "Doesn't seem like me."

But Williams is finding that she's ready to take some chances and to bet on herself.

"I'm recognizing my own strength and my own worth," she said. "I'm 38 and it's just happening."

Plus she wanted to work with Hardy. "She's one of the best actors out there working today," said "Venom" director Ruben Fleischer. He worried that she wouldn't want to do it, but Williams said she was only flattered by the offer.

"It's not like people are always asking me to be in these kinds of movies," Williams said. "I thought it would be fun to try something on a larger scale and to see if I can relax."

Venom is a character in the Spider-Man comics, and the \$100 million film, out Friday, is a part of Sony Pictures' efforts to create an extended Spider-Man Universe with the Marvel characters they license. (Spidey does not appear in "Venom.")

Williams plays Anne Weying, the ex-fiancée of Hardy's Eddie Brock. She was able to make the character her own, from the business-like costumes (some



“I'm recognizing my own strength and my own worth. I'm 38 and it's just happening.”

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

After years of fighting for privacy, Michelle Williams — at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles on Sept. 27 — became an unlikely symbol for gender pay disparity in Hollywood. Now, 38, newly married and watching her daughter become a teenager, Williams is finding ways she can effect change, like doing a superhero movie for first time, and making sure her character is one for the #MeToo age.

of which she shopped for herself) down to the dialogue: "There were certain lines that I felt were too passive or sweet. I wanted to make sure that she could stand her ground," Williams said, citing the Howard Hawks classic "His Girl Friday" as inspiration for the equal dynamic she wanted to convey. "I wanted it to be unmistakable that it was made in a #MeToo era. I said, 'I know that you guys won't let me wear a #MeToo t-shirt, but that's the vibe that I want.'"

The #MeToo moment and the pay debacle has made Williams reflect on her career and experiences up to this point and what it might mean for her 12-year-old daughter, Matilda Ledger.

"It was really tough when I was younger. You do get put in these situations with all of these men. You're always talking to men, being photographed by men. And I didn't know that I had another choice. I didn't know that I could say no. I didn't know I could say stop. I just didn't grow up with any of that language. And I never thought that it would change. I just thought that I would have to teach my daughter the language," Williams said. "Now, in America, I feel like our daughters are going to grow up with a different understanding of what's possible, what they're entitled to. My daughter knows that she can say whatever she wants. But I didn't."

And her life has changed dramatically in the past year, although at first it didn't seem like it would. It took more than six weeks for the pay discrepancy story to take off after breaking in The Washington Post in November.

"When that story came out, no one called me. Not a single person was like, 'Oh bumper for you.' Not a single person. It reinforced this mentality that nobody cares and that I'm completely alone out there," Williams said.

It would take the one-two punch of a tweet from her friend Jessica Chastain and a USA Today piece during the Golden Globe Awards in January for the story to hit a cultural nerve that would result in Wahlberg donating his \$1.5 million fee to Time's Up. Their shared talent agency, William Morris Endeavor, added \$500,000.

"For me, the hero of that story is Chastain," Williams said. "I owe her so much."

She hopes that her public struggle has helped embolden other women outside of the entertainment industry. Williams is now earning equal pay on a project for the first time in her life, for the FX Bob Fosse series, and with films like "Venom," is "opening up" her definition of herself.

Tim Allen wins TV rating bragging rights over Candice Bergen

From wire reports

After the first week of the television season, Tim Allen has bragging rights over Candice Bergen.

The return of Allen's sitcom, "Last Man Standing," reached 8.1 million viewers on Fox last Friday night. That was more than the 7.5 million people who tuned into the revival of Bergen's "Murphy Brown" on CBS the night before. CBS heavily promoted the return of "Murphy Brown" after two decades, and Hillary Clinton had a cameo in the first episode. But the show's first episode back couldn't match the numbers reached by other recent revivals like "Roseanne" (18.4 million for its first episode on ABC last March) and "Will & Grace" (10.2

million on NBC a year ago).

"Last Man Standing" had been gone just a year, canceled by ABC in a decision that Allen said left him "stunned and blindsided." But Fox brought it back, and on its first week it was the network's most popular entertainment show, particularly impressive considering Friday is one of the least-watched nights on television.

ABC said its decision was strictly business after it decided against airing comedies on Friday, but there were political overtones. Allen supports President Donald Trump, and his lead character, Mike Baxter, has been described as Archie Bunker with a college education. Some conservatives said the cancellation was

proof that they weren't valued as customers in liberal Hollywood.

The traditional opening week of the fall season wasn't bad; an average of 27 million people watched ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC in prime time, Nielsen said, and that was up 3 percent over the first week last year, when the four networks had 26.22 million.

'Roseanne' cast looks ahead to 'The Conners'

Cast members of the "Roseanne" revival are looking forward to their spinoff "The Conners."

Sara Gilbert, Tom Goodman and Laurie Metcalf discuss Roseanne Barr's racist tweet in a story that will appear in the Oct.

15 edition of People magazine. The three are grateful to Barr for agreeing to have no ties to the new show, which Goodman says was a "big deal" to "give us a chance."

Goodman says he had hopes of resurrecting "Roseanne" after ABC fired Barr for posting the tweet, which she apologized for but has said was misinterpreted.

Metcalf says there was "a lot of risk involved" in the spinoff, but they decided to take the chance. Gilbert says the cast hopes to channel any sadness from what they lost into the new show.

Other news

■ "The Silence of the Lambs" author Thomas Harris has a new novel out in May, his first in more

than a decade. But don't expect a return for Dr. Hannibal Lecter. Grand Central Publishing announced Wednesday that Harris will release his first "stand-alone thriller" since his debut, "Black Sunday," in 1975.

■ CBS News is adding Bianna Golodryga as a fourth anchor to its morning show. The network announced Wednesday that Golodryga will join the team of Gayle King, Norah O'Donnell and John Dickerson at the table on "CBS This Morning." Golodryga has worked at CBS News since 2017.

■ "Mayans M.C." has been renewed for a second season. FX announced Monday that it has picked up a second season of the "Sons of Anarchy" spinoff.

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OPINION

Flake rightly shunned the rubber stamp

By GEORGE F. WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

Prefering verbal felicity to practical wisdom, a character in a Benjamin Disraeli novel quipped, "A majority is always the best reported." Not really. Open societies that want to remain so should prefer persuasion to raw power, even the power of majorities. Which is why Republican Sen. Jeff Flake served the nation, its highest tribunal, constitutional morality and even his ungrateful party by not being a team player.

A minority of Americans are perpetually infuriated, and the Republican portion of that minority is furious with Flake because he used his leverage in a closely divided Senate to compel the FBI investigation of accusations against Brett Kavanaugh. Do enraged Republicans think the national interest, or even their party's interest, would have been well-served if, with the embers still smoldering from Christine Blasey Ford's and Kavanaugh's testimonies, Senate Republicans had used their legislative muscle to shove Kavanaugh's confirmation to completion by now?

In that case, Justice Kavanaugh — 20 percent of a majority on a court often divided 5-4 on contentious matters — would have served as a child of the suspicion that he got there only because his party would not countenance a reasonable delay that would enable the FBI to seek pertinent information. But how much of a delay is reasonable partly depends on what information is deemed pertinent.

Flake's Republican denouncers accurately anticipated that the FBI investigation and Democrats' complaints about it would begin simultaneously. Quickly abandoning their demand for one week, Democrats said that any time limit is "arbitrary" and, besides, is unacceptable because the FBI should follow any evidence relating to his "character" or "temperament." This, however, surely is pertinent: Even before



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., participates in the Atlantic's "The Constitution in Crisis" forum in Washington on Tuesday.

Ford's letter alleging Kavanaugh's sexual assault became public, and before some of his boldly categorical assertions to the Judiciary Committee concerning his high school and college comportment made those subjects pertinent, not one of 49 Democratic senators announced support for his confirmation.

With midterm elections impending, Democrats will soon say, "We should wait and let the voters be heard from." This argument for a hasty confirmation process is an argument that Republicans richly deserve to have turned against them. It is as anti-constitutional and unconservative as it was in March 2016 when it was concocted for use against the nomination of Merrick Garland. Had the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed him — he was manifestly qualified, moderate and 63 — today's nominee to replace Anthony Kennedy could have been Neil Gorsuch. Are Republicans happy with the way things have worked out?

At this point in a cringe-inducing process that is not apt to become less so, one consideration is more important than all the other considerations — justice for her,

justice for him, raising awareness about bad sexual behavior, etc., combined: What best serves, or least further injures, the court's institutional standing? Which is worse, confirming Kavanaugh, who diminished himself by his strident self-defense, or not confirming him, validating what has been done to him with as-yet-uncorroborated accusations.

Something might be salvaged from the current nadir, although not enough to compensate for damage already done. The FBI investigation might reveal nothing, or something, that definitively substantiates, or refutes, Ford's or Kavanaugh's sworn assertions. Flake bought time for this by acting like a senator. By that is, recognizing that the separation of powers retains its vitality only when legislators are more interested in their Article I powers and responsibilities than in the preferences of any president.

In his book "Conscience of a Conservative," Flake recalls when House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said approvingly that the statue in the Lincoln Memorial depicts one of the president's hands "in a perpetual fist." Actually, neither Lincoln's visage nor his left hand suggests pugnacity. The statue is, after all, situated next to the words "with malice toward none." DeLay saw what he wanted to see early in today's era of smash-mouth politics, when "confirmation bias" has several meanings.

In Robert Penn Warren's "All the King's Men," the 1946 roman à clef about Louisiana's Huey Long, the populist Gov. Willie Stark searches for something unsavory in a judge's background: "Man is conceived in sin and born in corruption and he passeth from the stink of the didie to the stench of the shroud. There is always something." And when an aide tells Stark that a particular act is beneath the dignity of a governor, Stark replies that "there ain't anything worth doing a man can do and keep his dignity." We should hope, against such current evidence, that this is not true.

Abortion's role in the attempted ruin of Kavanaugh

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

As we continue examining Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's high school and college life, it has been easy to forget what this was originally all about.

Until a few weeks ago, opposition to Kavanaugh's confirmation had been driven by fear among Democrats that he, as a Catholic (ergo pro-life) swing vote on the divided Supreme Court, would single-handedly overturn Roe v. Wade. This was never a *fait accompli* but rather a mere presumption.

But when a credible woman materialized with a charge of high school sexual assault, who were Democrats to deny her a voice? And who are we to question — ever — the credibility of an alleged survivor? Not only is Kavanaugh an alleged predator but he has also been accused — although less credibly — of possibly being present at a party where a gang rape supposedly occurred.

And, finally, according to others, he sometimes (or often) got drunk and became belligerent.

In all my high school and college days, I never saw anyone behaving in such a fashion. You? I'm lying, of course. Many of the young-and-stupid from my youth later grew up to become high-achieving doctors, lawyers, judges, professors, athletes,

presidents, CEOs, fathers, mothers — and columnists. I don't believe in the boys-will-be-boys excuse, not remotely, but neither do I automatically believe every woman's "truth."

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said Tuesday on CNN, "That's the crux of all these allegations: his aggressive behavior when he is drunk."

I couldn't agree more — but particularly in the context of the here and now. Does Kavanaugh get staggeringly drunk nowadays? Doubt it. Does he get aggressive and belligerent now? He was certainly rather animated last week, but wouldn't you be too if your character were suddenly scrutinized for hours in a public court?

I've interviewed more than a dozen women who have known and worked with Kavanaugh in the grown-up world. Without exception, they love and admire him as a gentleman — compassionate, thoughtful and honest. Speaking of which, by what distortion of virtue does a man such as Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who lied about serving in Vietnam, get to challenge another's honesty?

I've written this before — in a book prematurely titled "Save the Males" — but hating men, and specifically old, white men (OWM), is both true and counterintuitive. The justification seems connected to some sort of retributive justice combined with concerns the OWM want to restore the 1950s. (I would support this only if it

meant continuous reruns of "Queen for a Day.") Meanwhile, they conveniently forget that OWM created the Constitution, the three branches of government and the ideas of due process and the rule of law.

Americans shouldn't suffer from the delusion that the attempted ruin of Kavanaugh, his career and family has solely to do with Christine Blasey Ford. And the fact that she sincerely believes what she remembers does not without evidence diminish Kavanaugh's sincere denial of wrongdoing.

As for Kavanaugh's views on abortion, it is also possible to believe in something in one's personal life but also believe in settled law. Just as President John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, said that he didn't take orders from the Vatican, Kavanaugh may feel the same. On a personal note, although I would try to dissuade a woman from aborting her baby, I strenuously oppose state involvement in an individual's corporal autonomy. A government that can force a woman to have a child can also force her to abort her fetus, as China has done.

Kavanaugh may have been a rowdy, at times unruly, youth. But barring future evidence to the contrary, that doesn't make him a sexual predator. Nor does it negate three decades of good citizenship as a husband, father, judge, coach. If we can't judge a man or woman by his or her entire life's record, then we have no business judging at all.

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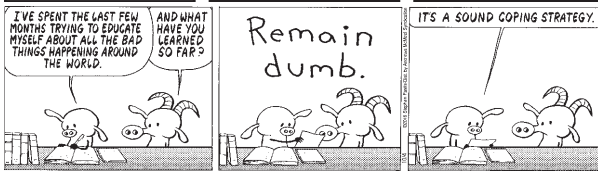
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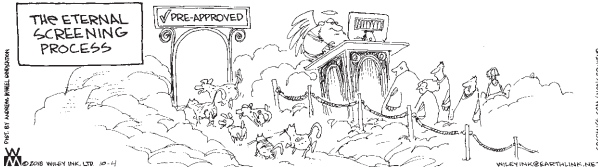
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
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41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Designer Chanel
- 5 Now, on a memo
- 9 Prune
- 12 Modern taxi alternative
- 13 1003, in old Rome
- 14 Praise in verse
- 15 Warblers
- 17 Pledge
- 18 Loud firework
- 19 Mike of "Shrek"
- 21 Rejection
- 22 Arctic sheets
- 24 Slapstick arsenal
- 27 Spring month
- 28 Vatican VIP
- 31 Adj. modifier
- 32 Ornate vase
- 33 Rebel Turner
- 34 Low digits
- 36 Superman

- 53 Dance move
- 54 Heart chart (Abbr.)
- 55 Norwegian saint
- 56 Lighter — air

- 22 Taxi costs
- 23 Bobcat cousin
- 24 Bit of butter
- 25 Altar promise
- 26 Vespers
- 27 Stubborn beast
- 29 Standard
- 30 JFK info
- 35 Command to Rover
- 37 Tops
- 39 Rodeo rope
- 40 Cry
- 41 Macadamize
- 42 Out of control
- 43 End-of-wk. cry
- 44 Closet invader
- 45 Furniture brand
- 46 "NFL Live" channel
- 49 Squeak stopper
- 50 Gun lobby org.

DOWN

- 1 Point
- 2 Reed instrument
- 3 Penny
- 4 Church keyboards
- 5 During
- 6 Army address
- 7 Help
- 8 — Beach, California
- 9 Serenade, often
- 10 Scent
- 11 Church furniture
- 16 Buddy
- 20 "Uh-huh"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	T	A	G	I	L	A	C	R	E
B	O	R	N	L	S	U	S	L	I	T
C	O	O	K	B	O	O	K	P	A	P
S	T	Y	L	U	S	A	N	I	M	A
P	A	C	D	E	B	W	E	A	R	Y
O	L	A	F	S	U	P	S	K	I	D
T	E	S	L	A	B	O	T	E	T	S
C	O	B	U	R	N	T	R	U	C	E
O	R	A	N	C	O	R	N	B	A	L
B	E	R	T	A	N	A	E	S	S	O
B	O	S	S	O	Y	S	T	A	G	

10-4

CRYPTOQUIP

N R Y Q Z K R Z N J C - B Z D Q

Y E K T B Q J T G Z U Q I Q Q K M N U Q K

B E E Y Z K C T X S S D N Q T, N ' F

H Z D D B G Z B E M J Q - Z I X K F Z K H Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VARIETY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE IN MANY SWAMPY BODIES OF WATER IN LOUISIANA: BAYOU-DIVERSITY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals F


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Automotive 140

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NFC				
Tennessee	3	1	.750	75
Jacksonville	3	1	.750	88
Houston	3	1	.750	86
Indianapolis	1	3	.250	94
AFC				
Cincinnati	3	.750	126	113
Baltimore	3	.750	123	65
San Diego	1	3	.250	104
Pittsburgh	1	3	.250	106
NFC				
Kansas City	4	2	1.000	145
Denver	2	2	.500	84
San Francisco	2	2	.500	82
Oakland	1	3	.250	97

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W	L	T	Pct	PF
Washington	2	1	.667	64
Dallas	2	2	.500	67
Atlanta	1	3	.250	82
N.Y. Giants	1	3	.250	75
NFC				
New Orleans	3	1	.750	137
Seattle	3	1	.750	112
Tampa Bay	2	2	.500	119
Chicago	1	3	.250	112
AFC				
Atlanta	3	1	.750	111
Jacksonville	2	2	.500	83
Minnesota	1	3	.250	100
Detroit	1	3	.250	114
NFC				
L.A. Rams	4	0	1.000	140
Seattle	3	1	.750	101
San Francisco	1	3	.250	108
San Diego	1	3	.250	97

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 Kansas City 27, Denver 25
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 Indianapolis at New England
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 Dallas at Houston
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Monday, Oct. 8
 Washington at New Orleans

AUTO RACING/GOLF

Charlotte's 'roval' a smashing success except for Johnson

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Wherever NASCAR is headed these next few years, Marcus Smith proved he deserves a seat at the head negotiating table.

The head of Speedway Motorsports Inc. has been pushing for innovative changes in the sport, and he actually put his money where his ideas are by renovating Charlotte Motor Speedway into a combination oval and road course that made for one of the most exciting races of the season. There were so many unknowns surrounding Smith's "roval" that fans were genuinely excited for Sunday's playoff race (it helped that the word "roval" was a draw all its own, prompting casual fans to give a curious look at NASCAR for the first time in forever).

When the smoke from the post-race fireworks finally cleared Sunday, and Ryan Blaney had washed down his playoff victory with a champagne toast led by Smith and Charlotte's loyal fans, NASCAR was able to sit back and celebrate a successful weekend.

It's been a while since everything went this well — with Jimmie Johnson a prominent exception.

There won't be a record eighth championship, at least not this year, because the most accomplished driver of his generation refused to play follow the leader around the finish line. Winless and losing the only sponsor he's ever had in NASCAR, Johnson and his Hendrick Motorsports team have not appeared to be a contender this season. Had Johnson advanced to the second round of the playoffs it would have been a welcome victory, small as it may be since he entered the race a candidate for elimination.

Instead, Johnson found himself running inside the top 10 for a large chunk of the race, and after

a late crash knocked out some of the most dominant cars, Johnson was second to Martin Truex Jr. over the final three laps.

Had Johnson stayed in line, he would have moved on to the playoffs. But he hasn't won in more than a year and the race was at Charlotte, where Johnson won eight points races on the oval and was once unbeatable. He made his move on the final lap and it was a spectacular disaster: First Johnson wheel-hopped as he tried to pass Truex, then his car slid through grass and shot back over, clipping Truex, and Blaney slipped by both for the victory.

It's hard to criticize Johnson for going for a drought-ending win. Where he truly messed up was in missing the final corner on the roval. Under the rules, Johnson was forced to stop his car and self-penalize himself for the whiff. When he drove off, he'd fallen from second to eighth, lost his cushion in the standings and ended up in a three-way tie for the final transfer spot in the playoffs and he lost on a tie-breaker.

Had Johnson not stopped after the spin and let all those cars past him, he wouldn't have finished eighth. He also would have forced NASCAR to decide whether to penalize him post-race for missing the turn.

That wasn't one of the second guesses Johnson had on Monday. He said on social media he would have only changed front brake bias as he headed into the braking zone because he believes that would have put him in a door-to-door race with Truex across the finish line.

He will never know. And his losing streak continues as he heads this weekend to Dover International Raceway, site of his last victory nearly 17 months ago.

On the flip side, the first round of the playoffs could not have gone any better for Team Penske, which got a Brad Keselowski win



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Drivers bring their cars through a chicane during the NASCAR Cup series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday. Racing has become stagnant on 1.5-mile ovals, and the roval provided something fresh and new.

in the opener, a Blaney win in the closer and all three of its drivers avoided elimination as the field was cut to 12.

That might not have been the case for Blaney had he not kept his car clean when Keselowski missed the entrance to the first turn on a restart with six laps remaining. Keselowski led the front line into the tire barrier and knocked himself out of the race and ruined Kyle Larson's chances at the win.

Blaney was in that mess, but backed out of it unscathed.

His shot at advancing into the next round was intact, so he was content where he was in the running order on the final lap. Then came the gift from Johnson and he pounced, with mixed feelings after.

"I don't want people to look at it as, 'Oh, you just won because the two guys wrecked,'" Blaney said. "That's what it was, and you don't want to be kind of overjoyed about it. You have to have some pride in it. I guess, it's a weird feeling. I hate using that 'undeserved' word because we deserved it because we put ourselves in that spot. But it's just a different. I've never won a race like that before."

It had to be equally weird for Blaney, the son of sprint car star Dave Blaney and a native of nearby Hialeah, woke up Monday and found his local paper celebrating the win by none other than "Dave Blaney." Ryan Blaney

wasn't complaining; his dad was at the track for the first time in nearly two months and the entire family celebrated Ryan Blaney's first victory of the season.

Racing has become stagnant on 1.5-mile ovals and the lack of on-track action has made selling tickets a challenge for race promoters.

Smith and his SMI group spent almost three years pushing for the roval race, which came the same season NASCAR used an experimental rules package in the All-Star race at Charlotte that Smith favored if for no other reason than it was something different.

Fans loved the All-Star rules (drivers did not) but Smith has focused mostly on what his customers are clamoring for. The roval provided something fresh and new, and Smith isn't done pushing for more innovation.

He said after the checkered flag that he felt as if he himself had just won the race.

"I wanted there to be an opportunity to pass for the lead, for the win on that last lap," Smith said. "What happened is not what I had imagined or necessarily hoped for. I think it was incredibly exciting. The roar from the fans was all I needed to know that that was the moment that everybody will remember for a long time."

If Smith's ideas can create more moments like Sunday's finish, then everyone should be listening to him.

Koepka gutted over wounded Ryder fan

Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Brooks Koepka is thinking about more than just golf these days.

The 28-year-old American, the U.S. Open and PGA Championship winner, said Wednesday he was heartbroken to hear a woman struck by his tee shot at the Ryder Cup last week might lose vision in her right eye.

Koepka's wild shot on the sixth hole at Le Golf National hit Corine Remande in the head. According to French media reports, doctors say she has lost sight and she is considering legal action.

"No one feels worse about this than I do. It's a tragic accident," said Koepka, adding he has been trying to get in touch with Remande. "I'm heartbroken and all messed up inside. It's sad and I really am torn up about it. She's not going to be able to see out of her eye ever again. All because I hit a golf ball. This is definitely the one shot in my career that I am going to regret."

Koepka, who is in Scotland to play at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, also said he and Dustin Johnson did not have an argument or a fight during a party after the Ryder Cup.

"This Dustin thing I don't get," Koepka said. "There was no fight. There was no argument. He is one of my best friends. I love the kid to death. We talked on the phone Monday and yesterday. So tell me how we fought? I don't know."

It's actually quite funny to us. How could we get into a fight on the flight over? We were sleeping. It's just laughable. I'd actually be curious to see who would win that fight, though. It would be interesting. It would be rough and rowdy. But we have never fought. That's not our relationship. We are two even-keeled guys. I can't remember raising my voice to him. And I don't think he has ever raised his voice to me. Ever, in our four years of friendship. That's not who we are."



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NHL PREVIEW



TONY AVELAR/AP

Calgary Flames goaltender Mike Smith, right, blocks a shot by San Jose Sharks right wing Timo Meier, left, during a preseason game. Smith will be wearing a smaller chest protector this season as the league continues to reduce the size of goalie equipment.

Goalie equipment gets even smaller

Associated Press

Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck recently stopped a puck near his collarbone. It was a shot that, in years past, he might not have thought about twice.

This time, it hurt.

"Didn't feel very good," Hellebuyck said.

He and his fellow NHL goalies will be wearing a smaller chest protector this season as the league continues to reduce the size of equipment, following recent reductions for pads and pants. The overall aim is to boost scoring while at the same time rewarding athletic ability in the crease by eliminating unnecessary padding that wasn't protecting goalies, but instead simply helping them block pucks.

A 190-pound goalie and a 240-pound goalie will no longer cut the same figure on the ice.

"Three or four years ago, talking to some of the best goalies in hockey ... they wanted us to try to find a way to make goalies look closer to the size they were," Kay Whitmore, NHL vice president of hockey operations, told The Canadian Press. "The biggest complaint was, 'I weigh 50 pounds more than another guy, why do we look the same?'"

The league, working in conjunction with the NHL Players' Association, has focused on reducing the size of the shoulders on chest protectors by roughly an inch to make them less boxy and more form-fitting. The same goes for the padding on a goalie's arms.

Getting the new equipment has taken longer because of delays with manufacturers, but Whitmore said the league is close to what will become the "new normal."

"We wanted to get it right once

and for all," he said. "It was a more complicated piece of equipment than when we introduced the new pants or pads. We can ask companies to make changes, but things didn't move very fast until we created a standard, gave them specifics and asked them to build to it."

Whitmore, who played the position for 155 games with four NHL teams in his 15-year career, said safety remains a top priority.

"There's no expectation that a goalie should have to do his job getting bruised daily," he said. "I don't want to see guys go on the ice fearful of getting hit with pucks, because that's what they do for a living."

Mathieu Schneider, special assistant to NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, said the personal nature of chest protectors has been a challenge. Some goalies had worn their old ones for a decade or more.

Connor Hellebuyck
Jets goalie

2005-06, averaging nearly six goals per game.

With that in mind, Hellebuyck said he doesn't see a need to change — for any reason.

"I'm not happy about it because it's my job," he said. "And really what they want is me to be worse."

With the process underway since 2016, Whitmore said, recent history gives him confidence the new gear will provide the game an overall benefit.

"It makes the job a little more difficult," he said. "We changed other things to make goaltenders more mobile. At first they didn't agree with it, but once they started playing they felt faster, quicker and actually got better. I don't expect anything different from this once they adapt."

Devils' Hischier latest in line of skilled Swiss

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

When Nico Hischier was born in 1999 in the mountainside town of Naters, exactly one Swiss born-and-trained player had been in the NHL — for exactly one forgettable game.

After Pauli Jaks tended goal for two periods in 1995, it took until 2001 for Reto Von Arx to become the first Swiss skater to make his NHL debut and many more years before the country had its first international hockey hero in Mark Streit.

Switzerland sent goaltenders David Aebischer and Martin Gerber, Streit and fellow defensemen Yannick Weber and Roman Josi to the NHL as its population surpassed 8 million and more money went into developing the sport. Last year, Switzerland finally topped the charts when the New Jersey Devils made Hischier the first Swiss to go No. 1 in the NHL Draft.

He is the latest in a suddenly strong line of skilled Swiss forwards emerging as NHL stars.

"It starts at a young age," Hischier said. "There are some good coaches and some really good teams that you can develop (with). ... They do a great job to be able to go practice and be able to do school. There's special schools where you can do both. It's all part of it."

Hischier is in the spotlight this week as he and the Devils returned to his junior town of Bern, Switzerland, to practice and play an exhibition game before facing the Edmonton Oilers in Sweden to open the season. He is the poster boy for this generation of Swiss talent that includes Minnesota's Nino Niederreiter, San Jose's Timo Meier, Nashville's Kevin Fiala and Vancouver's Sven Baertschi.

Those five players have already combined to play almost five times the number of games of all the Swiss forwards who came before them.

"Swiss hockey's been growing a lot over the years and we've been making steps," Meier said. "Mark Streit and then Nino Niederreiter got drafted pretty high. That was the age where I was kind of realizing that's where I want to be and that's what I'm working for. Just kind of watching these guys work their way into the NHL was pretty exciting and made me want to be there some day."



DENIK HAMILTON/AP

The Philadelphia Flyers' Mark Streit works with the puck during a game against the Detroit Red Wings on Nov. 2, 2016 in Philadelphia. Streit is Switzerland's standard-bearer in hockey after playing parts of 10 seasons for four teams.

Streit, who retired last year, understands his place in Switzerland's hockey pantheon, right there with Aebischer and Gerber as pioneers. He's proud of how Swiss hockey has finally earned some respect internationally.

"Ten, 12, 15 years ago, nobody really talked about Swiss hockey," Streit said. "Only a few, a handful, had been drafted. I think now, a few guys left a mark, so the teams know Swiss guys can play hockey."

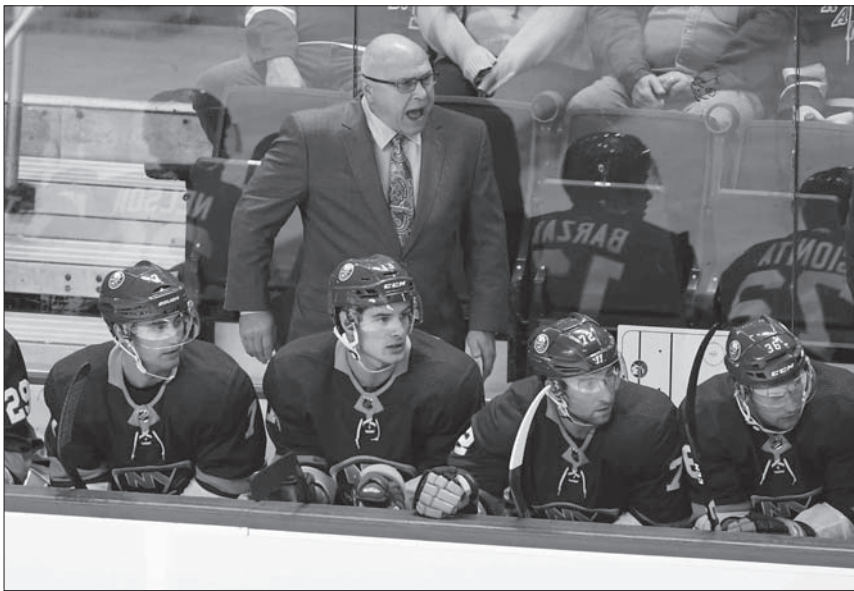
Hischier is opening the door for the next generation of players. Last summer, he skated with younger players and recalled that it felt weird to be admired. He realized he had a duty to help grow the sport back home and serve as a Streit-like inspiration.



JULIO CORTES/AP

New Jersey Devils center Nico Hischier is in the spotlight this weekend as he and the Devils returned to his junior town of Bern, Switzerland, to practice and play an exhibition game.

NHL PREVIEW



JESSICA HILL/AP

After leading the Washington Capitals to their first Stanley Cup, Barry Trotz, back, left to take over the New York Islanders.

New men behind the bench

Several teams change coaches, including champion Caps

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

While the Washington Capitals are watching their Stanley Cup banner rise to the rafters, Barry Trotz will be fresh off a plane in North Carolina, preparing for his own season opener.

Trotz guided the Capitals to their first title last season and in winning it triggered an automatic contract extension far under the present-day market value for top NHL coaches. He resigned less than a week after the parade, joined the New York Islanders and brings with him almost two decades of NHL coaching experience along with that Cup ring.

"Everything he's gone through and his success, it's going to be just perfect for us," Islanders forward Anders Lee said. "There's plenty of guys on our team that are going to be able to learn from him and his experiences and he's going to be able to give it to us and make us a better team."

The Islanders are one of six teams with a new coach this season. The cross-town Rangers went the college route by hiring David Quinn from Boston University, while the Dallas Stars hired Jim Montgomery from the University of Denver. The Caro-



NICK WASS/AP

Todd Reirden was elevated to head coach from associate coach by the Capitals. He inherits a team that just won the Stanley Cup.

lina Hurricanes promoted assistant Rod Brind'Amour to replace Bill Peters when he left for Calgary and the Capitals made a no-brainer choice of elevating associate coach Todd Reirden to take over for Trotz.

As Trotz begins what he and general manager Lou Lamoriello hope is an organizational culture change with the Islanders, Reirden has assumed control of a team he knows well from four years as an assistant. Familiarity is Reirden's biggest asset as he becomes just the fourth coach to take over a defending Cup champion.

"This is probably going to be the smoothest transition of any coaching change that I've ever heard of," Capitals right winger T.J. Oshie said. "Everyone respects Todd, respects the way he coaches, respects how he treats people. What a guy Trotz is. He's going to be missed. But he's on the other side now."

Trotz bears significant responsibility for changing the culture around the Capitals, buttoning down structure and fostering the right habits for success. New York doesn't have the talent his old Washington teams did, espe-

cially after captain John Tavares left to sign with Toronto, but the Islanders will get a taste of how Trotz makes teams perform better than they look on paper.

"When you say culture change, it's just a way of doing things," Trotz said. "It may be the way we present ourselves, the way we react, the way we respond to adversity and all those things."

Trotz could easily go back to his coaching style from 15 years in Nashville, when he oversaw a team that was short on high-end skill but long on hard work and fundamentals.

It worked there, as Trotz took the Predators to the playoffs seven times. He made four post-season appearances in six seasons with the Capitals.

While it's Trotz's goal to get the Islanders back into playoff contention as soon as possible, Quinn's job with the Rangers is much more about teaching and developing. New York still has All-Star goaltender Henrik Lundqvist and some veterans but is in the middle of a youth movement Quinn seems perfect for.

"[He is] communicative, disarming, caring, approachable," Rangers forward Chris Kreider said. "I think kind of the ideal pedigree that you'd want in a coach."

Seattle next city set to get franchise

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL is moving forward with plans to expand to Seattle.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said Tuesday the Board of Governors' executive committee recommended proceeding with Seattle's expansion application, with an eye on voting to approve the league's 32nd franchise in December. The recommendation came a few hours after key stakeholders presented

their case to the committee and hit it off enough that Seattle could be awarded a team two months from now.

"The notion is have the board vote on expansion," Bettman said. "And assuming, as I think everybody is, that it would be approved — I don't want to be presumptuous of the board's prerogative — but everything seems to be on track."

It was the best possible news that could have come out of the meetings for proponents of the NHL in Seattle.

Bettman agreed with Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan that the preference is for the team to begin play in the 2020-21 season, and that's still a very real possibility as long as renovations to KeyArena in downtown Seattle proceed as scheduled.

"I'm very confident we're going to be able to move forward and get what we need from the NHL and the team and stick to the schedule so we have hockey in 2020," Durkan said. "They know we want it in 2020 and [the league would] like to have it in 2020, too, if we get the team."

When the board next meets Dec. 3-4, Bettman expects a full report on Seattle expansion and said the goal is for the governors to vote at that time, with 24 of 32 needed for approval. It's conceivable the board votes to give Seattle the green light for 2020 contingent on the arena with the option to push things back to 2021 if necessary.

Approval seems assured at this point. Bettman said the endorsement by the nine-owner executive committee "speaks volumes," and it seems unlikely the board will turn down a \$650 million expansion fee for the opportunity to expand to the U.S. Pacific Northwest, provide a natural geographic rival for the Vancouver Canucks and balance the Eastern and Western conferences at 16 teams each.



Durkan

NFL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL/MLB

Steelers focus on starts, not RB Bell

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — If Le'Veon Bell is returning to the Pittsburgh Steelers later this month, he hasn't let his teammates and coaches know.

Coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday he hasn't heard from the All-Pro running back, who told ESPN on Monday that he will end his standoff with the team around Pittsburgh's bye week, which begins after the Steelers face the Bengals on Oct. 14.

"I have not talked to Le'Veon and I really have no Le'Veon update," Tomlin said. "It's the best approach for us to focus on the guys which are here and working ... we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Nothing has changed in that regard."

Bell is in the midst of an extended absence as an act of self-preservation when he and the Steelers could not reach a long-term agreement after Pittsburgh placed the franchise tag on him in the spring.

Technically he is not holding out because he has yet to sign his one-year deal, a decision that is costing him more than \$850,000 a week. Bell did not offer a specific date for his return, but if he

comes in around Oct. 15 it would give him two weeks to show the coaching staff what he can do before the Steelers play Cleveland on Oct. 28.

The two-time defending AFC North champions have slumped during Bell's self-imposed sabbatical. Pittsburgh is 1-2-1 a quarter of the way through the season thanks in large part to sluggish starts that have forced them to play from behind and abandon the running game. The Steelers ran for 19 yards on 11 carries in a loss to Baltimore on Sunday night.

Several of Bell's teammates — particularly the offensive line — expressed frustration in early September when Bell opted not to rejoin the team in time for the opener, as he did in 2017. Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger hopes Bell gives Pittsburgh a much-needed jolt, but isn't exactly expecting Bell to show up and save the day, whenever that day actually arrives.

"If [Bell] can come back and help us and be ready to go, then we'll be ready to welcome him back," Roethlisberger said on his weekly radio show on 93.7 The Fan. "A lot of things were said earlier in the year, but that's kind



FRED VUICH/AP

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin said he hasn't heard from All-Pro running back holdout Le'Veon Bell.

of in the past and we've moved on, and hopefully he's moving on in the sense of getting back and ready to be with us."

Concerns over his usage rate in 2018 perhaps hurting his value on the open market in 2019 played a role in Bell's unprecedented move to remain away while the Steelers got off to their worst start since they dropped the first four games in 2013, his rookie season.

Pittsburgh has been outscored 42-6 in the first quarter this season.

"We've got to get out of the gate quicker," Tomlin said. "You can't spot people points in the National Football League. We've got to do a better job of starting game on both sides of the ball."



PAUL SANCY/AP

Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly is preparing his players for their first trip to Blacksburg, Va., to face No. 24 Virginia Tech by turning up the volume in practice and showing them clips of Lane Stadium.

for Notre Dame. Last Nov. 11, the third-ranked Irish were blown out 41-8 on the road by seventh-ranked Miami after Hurricanes fans taunted Notre Dame's buses on the way to the stadium. "I was public in saying that I don't think I even handled it the right way and giving them enough information about the situation," Kelly said. "I can't be caught off guard, and maybe I was caught off guard because I didn't prepare them the right way. We won't be caught off guard going into Lane Stadium."

Kelly plans to show his team video clips of the stadium, where fans are being asked this week to color coordinate their outfits to specific sections.

"They will be much more accustomed to the situation," Kelly said of his players. "They know there will be a lot of orange. The

decibels will be loud."

When asked if he talked to his team about Miami, Kelly said he hadn't. But things were awfully noisy at times during spring practice and are expected to be again this week before the team flies to Blacksburg on Friday.

"It will be as loud as allowable," Kelly said with a smile. "On campus, we have some restrictions, but you'll definitely know that there's a practice going on. No doubt."

Kelly expects his team won't see the Virginia Tech team that was stunned 40-35 last month at Old Dominion.

"Virginia Tech has really shown under coach [Justin] Fuente the ability to score points, and [defensive coordinator Bud] Foster can do about anything from a defensive standpoint," Kelly said. "And their special teams have that 'Beamer Ball' mentality."

Twins fire Molitor

Team eyes manager to develop young talent

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Two years ago, the Minnesota Twins made Derek Falvey their chief baseball officer with the precondition that Paul Molitor remain as manager.

Molitor presided over a play-off team and won the American League Manager of the Year award in 2017, but the Twins slipped backward this season. Last week, Falvey and general manager Thad Levine decided the time was right to hire their own manager.

Citing pursuit of more productive development by their young players, Falvey and Levine fired Molitor on Tuesday while offering him an opportunity to remain with the organization in an undefined position in baseball operations.

"This wasn't about our record this year. This is about what we think is best as we continue to grow a young team in the direction toward being a championship contender," Falvey said.

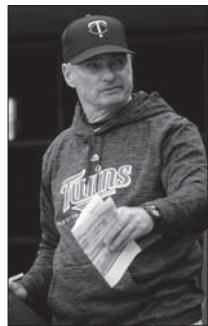
Falvey and other club executives expressed confidence that Molitor would stay with the Twins beyond the 20 years he has already worked for them in various roles, including the final three seasons of his Hall of Fame playing career.

"I fully respect that decision," Molitor said in a statement distributed by the team. "I will forever be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to serve in the role as manager for these past four years. I'm going to consider their genuine offer to serve in a different capacity to positively impact the Twins from a different role."

The Twins went 305-343 under the 62-year-old Molitor, with one appearance in the playoffs in 2017. They were 78-84 this year, long out of postseason contention after a series of early setbacks to several key players.

Falvey and Levine, in a news conference at Target Field to announce the change, didn't articulate specific reasons for firing Molitor or desired qualities they're seeking in his replacement. The 20-minute session with reporters was largely filled with praise of Molitor's acumen and attitude, including a willingness to employ data-driven, new-age strategy like defensive shifts and starting a game with a relief pitcher.

With a backdrop of the struggles this year by center fielder Byron Buxton and third baseman Miguel Sano, the players long targeted as franchise cornerstones, the Twins have a need for new approaches and voices for their prospects that stretches beyond the main man in the dugout, however. Soon after Molitor was dismissed from his post, the Twins announced the firing of seven minor-league coaches and two strength and conditioning coaches from the major league staff.



JIM MONE/AP

The Twins fired manager Paul Molitor one season after he won the American League Manager of the Year award. In four seasons under Molitor, Minnesota went 305-343 with one appearance in the playoffs in 2017.

"In conversation with Paul last year at that time, we did look at what the future could look like if he wasn't managing," Falvey said. "It's never the right time to make a difficult decision, and it's never easy. You have to weigh all the factors that we learned about this team this year, where we are and what need to do moving forward. We felt like now was the time to have that conversation with Paul."

After the Twins went 85-77 and reached the wild-card game last season, Molitor was given a new three-year contract. Before Minnesota edged into the postseason, there was buzz that Molitor might've been let go at the end of last season.

"I don't really think that that was a huge roadblock to them," Pohlad said. "I mean, everybody wanted the situation to work out, and I did too, because Paul's a personal friend and he's done so much for our organization and is so important to our community. So I feel good about that decision."

Executives often prefer to pick their own managers, though, and Falvey and Levine will now undertake that task. They're willing to wait until after the World Series to decide, they said, in case a candidate is still participating.

"This is an eye toward the future," team president Dave St. Peter said. "What puts us in the best position to dig out of this hole that we're in?"

The Twins acquired relievers Fernando Rodney, Addison Reed and Zach Duke, starting pitchers Lance Lynn and Jake Odorizzi and designated hitter Logan Morrison over the winter, but Rodney and Duke were the only additions who couldn't be considered disappointments on the field.

Irish prep for noisy Hokies

By JOHN FINERAN
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — It is a little noisy this week around the Notre Dame campus, and it has nothing to do with the undefeated start by the sixth-ranked Fighting Irish.

It has everything to do with their first visit ever to Virginia Tech, where the 24th-ranked Hokies will enjoy the advantage of playing in a packed and deafening Lane Stadium after defeating Notre on the field to Metcalfe's "Enter Sandman."

After dominating both sides of the line of scrimmage against Stanford in a 38-17 victory last weekend, Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly wants to see a similar performance on the road against the Hokies (3-1), who are coming off a 31-14 victory at Duke.

"We've got to be able to do that on the road against a quality opponent and in an incredible atmosphere," Kelly said Tuesday. "[This] is something that we knew we were going to face. We get a chance to work on the things that have embedded in our program over the last seven months in terms of handling these tough environments."

Less than a year ago, one of those environments was too much

MLB

Boston keeps routine waiting for opponent

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

BOSTON — Alex Cora knows first-hand the way things change in October. That's why the Boston Red Sox manager wants to keep everything the same for his club.

Routine served Boston well during the regular season. Under their rookie skipper, the Red Sox posted a franchise-best 108 wins and secured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

They will enter the American League Division Series on Friday with two AL MVP candidates in Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez, plus Cy Young Award candidate Chris Sale and former Cy Young winners David Price and Rick Porcello — both coming off solid regular seasons.

The Red Sox won't know their opponent until Wednesday when the Yankees host the Athletics in the wild-card game. Cora said the team will gather for dinner and watch together. Other than that, their preparations will be the same — from meetings, to batting practices, to bullpen sessions.

"That's why I feel they're gonna be fine, because nothing's gonna change," Cora said.

Boston is coming off consecutive first-round postseason exits, winning just one game in those two series.

Cora was an assistant coach with the Houston Astros last year when they opened the ALDS against Boston with back-to-back 8-2 victories on their way to a 3-1 series win and eventual World Series title.

"It's always good to have the last at-bat if you are down — no doubt about it," Cora said of the benefits of opening at home. "We love it here...The atmosphere should be loud and we'll take advantage of it."

Under Cora, the Red Sox have become an aggressive offensive team with dependable power in the middle of the lineup — two of their biggest deficiencies in the past two postseasons.

Martinez was given a \$110 million, five-year contract this offseason specifically to help in those areas, and he has come through in a big way.

He batted .330 with 43 home runs and 130 RBIs. The only other Red Sox to hit at least .330 with 40-plus homers and 130 RBIs are Ted Williams (1949) and Jimmie Foxx (1936, 1938). The last major leaguer to do it was Miguel Cabrera (2013).



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

The Red Sox's J.D. Martinez, center, celebrates his three-run home run that also drove in Brock Holt, left, and Tzu-Wei Lin, right, against the Yankees on Sunday. MVP candidate Martinez has delivered for Boston after getting a \$110 million deal.

And according to the Elias Sports Bureau, Betts and Martinez became the first MLB teammates to finish first and second in batting average and slugging percentage since 1904, when Pittsburgh's Honus Wagner and Fred Clarke did it.

Betts also has other motivations entering his third postseason.

He hit just .200 in his first postseason in 2016 before bouncing back to hit .313

last postseason. But he has yet to record a home run or RBI.

He is coming off his best regular season as a major leaguer, with career-bests in batting average (.346), slugging percentage (.640) and home runs (32).

"I think it's one of those things where you gotta go out and do what you've been doing all year — don't try to do anything more or take anything away," Betts said. "Just see

the game the same way we played 162." Boston won its regular-season series with the Yankees 10-9, but went just 2-4 against Oakland. The Athletics' Sean Manaea no-hit Boston in April, though he's now out for the season with an injury.

Jackie Bradley Jr. said Boston has no preference for who it faces in Fenway Park on Friday.

"The team that wins," he said.

MLB blasts 'unwritten rules' in new playoff ad



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

The Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton watches his home run on Sept. 27. Stanton is featured in an MLB playoff ad that denounces the game's so-called "unwritten rules."

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball is opening October by blasting the game's so-called "unwritten rules."

MLB released an advertisement ahead of Tuesday's postseason opener denouncing the anti-bat flip attitudes of many baseball traditionalists.

"Don't stop and stare. Don't flip your bat. Respect the jersey," says a narrator at the start. Meanwhile, the commercial shows Giancarlo Stanton admiring a lengthy home run, Carlos Correa tossing his bat, Mookie Betts flexing and Yasiel Puig wagging his tongue after a daring headfirst slide.

It also includes Atlanta rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. celebrating a home run against the Marlins. Acuna was plunked by Miami's

Jose Urena during his impressive five-game homer streak this season, an incident that put baseball's unwritten rules back under the microscope.

After Acuna, the ad cuts to Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. Griffey sports a backward baseball cap, just like he did as the fresh face of baseball in the early 1990s.

"No more talk," Griffey says. "Let the kids play."

The commercial features soundbites from a few broadcasters criticizing players, including one from longtime Turner Sports analyst Joe Simpson. The Braves announcer came under fire a few times this season, including when he labeled Dodgers veteran Chase Utley "unprofessional" for wearing a "K Cancer" T-shirt during batting practice.

Simpson was left off TBS's

postseason lineup for this fall, a decision that was made last offseason.

Proponents of baseball's unspoken code of conduct have gone hard after certain players for their postseason antics. Puig is a regular target because of his energetic shenanigans, and slugger Jose Bautista was rebuked for staring down his go-ahead homer in Game 5 of the 2015 AL Division Series.

The game's conservative crowd has gotten increasing pushback from younger players and fans, especially as MLB struggles to target younger viewers. Bryce Harper campaigned in 2016 to "Make Baseball Fun Again," while some perceive the old-timers to be unfairly forcing Latin players to conform to American cultural standards.

MLB PLAYOFFS

NLDS Game 1
Atlanta Braves
at Los Angeles Dodgers
AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Thursday CET
5 a.m. Friday JKT

NLDS capsule

A look at the best-of-five National League Division Series between the Atlanta Braves and Los Angeles Dodgers:

Season series: Dodgers won 5-2.
Projected lineups: Braves: LF Ronald Acuna Jr. (.293, 26 HRs, 64 RBIs, 16 SBs), CF Ender Inciarte (.265, 10, 61, 28 SBs), 1B Freddie Freeman (.309, 23, 98, 10 SBs), RF Nick Markakis (.297, 14, 39), SS Johan Camargo (.272, 19, 76), C Tyler Flowers (.227, 8, 30), 2B Ozzie Albies (.261, 24, 72, 14 SBs), SS Dandy Swanson (.236, 14, 39 injured left hand) or Charlie Culberson (.276, 12, 45).

Dodgers: LF JC Pederson (.248, 25, 56) or Matt Kemp (.290, 21, 85, 115 Ks in 146 games), 3B Justin Turner (.312, 14, 52), 1B Max Muncy (.263, 35, 79, 58 OPS), SS Manny Machado (.315, 24, 46, 963 OPS with Orioles; .273, 13, 42, 825 OPS with Dodgers), C Yasmani Grandal (.241, 24, 69), CF-1B Cody Bellinger (.260, 25, 76, 151 Ks in 162 games), RF Yasiel Puig (.267, 23, 63), 2B Eric Hernandez (.236, 21, 52) or Brian Dozier (.227, 16, 52 with Twins; .182, 5, 20 with Dodgers).

Starting pitchers: Braves: RH Mike Foltynewicz (13-10, 2.85 ERA, 202 Ks), RH Jacob deGrom (17-6, 2.61 ERA, 201 Ks), RH Clayton Kershaw (10-11, 3.92 with Braves and Orioles; 5-3, 2.87 in 10 starts for Atlanta), RH Julio Fernandez (9-3, 3.94, 136 opponents' batting average) or LH Sean Newsum (12-9, 3.00).

Dodgers: LH Hyun-Jin Ryu (7-3, 1.97), LH Clayton Kershaw (17-6, 2.61 ERA, 201 Ks, 155 Ks), RH Walker Buehler (8-5, 2.62, 151 Ks), LH Rich Hill (11-5, 3.66, 150 Ks) or RH Ross Stripling (8-10, 2.02).

Matches: Third postseason meeting between the teams. Los Angeles led Atlanta in four games in 2012 NLDS, which was Braves' last playoff appearance. Braves swept Dodgers in 1996 NLDS. Dodgers outscored Braves 35-16 in season series. Braves have lost eight consecutive playoff series since sweeping Astros in 2001 NL Division Series. Foltynewicz had a 5.58 ERA, allowing seven earned runs in 11 1/3 innings, against Dodgers in two regular-season starts. Dodgers went 45-37 at home and head into playoffs having won 14 of 18 overall. Dodgers took two of three 5-0 wins in LA from June 8-10 and three of four in Atlanta from July 28-29. Buehler has emerged as Dodgers' second-best pitcher behind Kershaw after starting season at Triple-A Oklahoma City. Buehler limited hitters to .183 batting average, while striking out 151 against 37 walks in 24 regular-season games, including 23 starts. Dodgers did the long ball. Their 235 homers led the NL.

Big picture: Braves' NL East champion Atlanta (90-72) was expected to improve this season, but was not projected to be far along enough in its rebuild to challenge for a postseason spot. Snitter, however, guided team to a huge jump in wins in 2017, finishing 31st in the division behind first-place Washington, and their first division title since 2013.

Dodgers: NL West champion Los Angeles (92-71) is looking to return to the World Series after losing Game 7 at home in the Houston last year. Dodgers haven't won it all since 1988. Los Angeles tried to win the NL West for the third straight year. Dodgers swept Arizona in three games last season and edged Washington 3-2 in 2016. Dodgers went from second-most wins in team history (104) last season to 92 this year, ending from dominating the NL West to needing Game 163 tiebreaker victory over Colorado at home to clinch their record sixth consecutive division title.

Key to the closer: Jensen allowed 18 homers this season, more than twice as many as his previous career high. He gave up back-to-back home runs in the division tiebreaker against the Braves, although he was pitched with a comfortable lead. Jensen had a tumultuous first half of season and said he's going to need surgery.

On the bench: Snitter said he feels good about Lucas Duda's availability to pinch-hit for Duda was limited late in the season by a sore back. Duda offers power from the left.

Super Max: Muncy got called up in mid-July after Max Scherzer was injured and has been the dodgers' big basher ever since. It's quite a turnaround for a player who was benched by Ozzie Guillen in 2017 in the minors.

— Associated Press



PHOTOS BY NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Cubs' Albert Almora Jr. strikes out swinging for the final out of the game during the National League wild-card game against the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday in Chicago.

Rolling: Oberg strikes out side, ends record-setting playoff game

FROM BACK PAGE

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley. Terrance Gore tried to sell that he was hit by a pitch, but was sent back to the plate after a replay review confirmed the initial call.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging for the final out, Wolters ran out and grabbed Oberg. They were soon joined by the rest of the excited Rockies in a rollicking purple mob near the mound.

"You're always wondering, 'How's this going to end?' But our guys fought all night and to be able to get that last out there was great," Oberg said.

Wolters got his first hit since Sept. 10 in his playoff debut, and it was just the second postseason game for Oberg. Previously, the longest winner-take-all games in the postseason were 12-inning affairs in the 2014 AL wild-card round and Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

This one lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes, and had pretty much everything, too. Hendricks was the third starting pitcher used by the Cubs, after Jon Lester worked six solid innings and Cole Hamels was pressed into action after the teams were tied at 1 through nine. Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado exchanged a memorable hug with Javier Baez after he tagged the excitable Cubs star in the 11th.

Colorado moved on to the Division Series for the first time since



The Rockies' Carlos Gonzalez celebrates with teammates in the clubhouse after beating the Cubs 2-1 in 13 innings.

2009. The Rockies lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game a year ago.

"Such a crazy game," Story said.

The Cubs made it to the NLCS in each of the previous three seasons, winning the 2016 World Series to break a 108-year drought, but they were plagued by an inconsistent offense all season long. Chicago finished with six hits and left 10 runners on base after managing only three hits in Monday's 3-1 home loss to the Brewers in the NL Central tiebreaker.

"We played that game a lot," said manager Joe Maddon, who matched a postseason record by using 23 players. "Believe me, it was on my mind for a large part of it."

This time, it was Kyle Fre-

land cruising through Maddon's lineup.

Starting on three days' rest for the first time in the pros, Freeland struck out six in 6 1/2 scoreless innings. The Denver native looked quite comfortable in his first career playoff appearance, helping his hometown team bounce back from Monday's NL West tiebreaker loss to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

"Sometimes you just get beat and we got beat tonight," Lester said.

Lester helped Chicago stick around by matching a career playoff high with nine strikeouts in his 26th postseason appearance. But he took a little while to settle into the game, and the Rockies took advantage.

Charlie Blackmon led off with a five-pitch walk. DJ LeMahieu followed with a ground-rule double on a 3-2 pitch — with the ball getting stuck in the famed ivy in left-center — and Arenado's sacrifice fly drove in Blackmon.

Lester then limited the damage by striking out Story and Matt Holliday with LeMahieu on third.

The one run looked as if it might hold up as Freeland cruised into the seventh. After Story robbed Daniel Murphy of a hit with a diving grab at shortstop, manager Bud Black replaced Freeland with Adam Ottavino.

Chicago loaded the bases with two outs, getting some help when Drew Butera was called for catcher's interference, but Ottavino struck out pinch-hitter Jason Heyward to end the inning.

Scoreboard

Wild card
Tuesday: Colorado 2, Chicago 1, 13 innings
Wednesday: Oakland at New York

Division series
(Best-of-five; x-if necessary)
American League
Boston vs. New York-Oakland winner
Friday: at Boston (Slate 12-4)
Saturday: at Boston (Price 16-7)
Monday: Boston (Piercello 17-7) at New York-Oakland winner
x-Tuesday, Oct. 9: at New York-Oakland winner
National League
x-Thursday, Oct. 11: at Boston
Houston vs. Cleveland
Friday: Cleveland (Kluber 20-7) at Houston (Verlander 16-9)
Saturday: Cleveland (Carrasco 17-10) at Houston (Cole 15-5)
Monday: Houston (Keuchel 12-11) at Cleveland (Clevinger 13-8)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 9: at Cleveland
x-Thursday, Oct. 11: at Houston

National League
Milwaukee vs. Colorado
Thursday: at Milwaukee
Friday: at Milwaukee
Sunday: at Colorado
x-Monday: at Colorado
x-Wednesday, Oct. 10: at Milwaukee
Los Angeles vs. Atlanta
Thursday: Atlanta (Foltynewicz 13-10) at Los Angeles (Ryu 7-3)
Friday: at Los Angeles (Kershaw 9-5)
Sunday: at Atlanta
x-Monday: at Atlanta
x-Wednesday, Oct. 10: at Los Angeles

Tuesday
NL wild-card game
Rockies 2, Cubs 1 (13)

Colorado	ab	r	h	bi	Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Blickmon cf	1	0	0	0	Zabritz/rf	0	0	0	0
W.Davis p	0	0	0	0	Bryant lf	3	0	6	1
Valaika ph	1	0	0	0	Rizzo lb	3	0	0	0
Chp	1	0	0	0	Gore pr/cf	2	1	0	0
McMahon lb	1	0	0	0	J.Baez ss	5	0	1	1
Maheiu 2b	0	0	0	0	Almora c	5	0	0	0
Arenado 3b	5	0	1	0	Murphy 2b	4	0	0	0
Holliday lf	3	0	0	0	Bote 3b	2	0	0	0
Parra lf	2	0	0	0	Rizzo ph	0	0	0	0
Desmond 1b	5	0	1	0	Rizzo ph	0	0	0	0
Rusin p	0	0	0	0	Cishek p	0	0	0	0
Stro p	1	0	0	0	Stro p	0	0	0	0
Dahl rf/cf	6	0	0	0	Schwab ph	1	0	0	0
Hamels p	1	0	0	0	Hamels p	1	0	0	0
Ottavino p	0	0	0	0	Cratin ph	1	0	0	0
C.Gratz lf	2	0	0	0	J.Wilson p	0	0	0	0
Freland p	2	0	0	0	Hendricks p	1	0	0	0
Butera c	2	0	0	0	Lester p	0	0	0	0
Oberg p	0	0	0	0	Lester p	0	0	0	0
					Chavez p	0	0	0	0
					Heyward ph	1	0	0	0

Colorado 48 211 2 **total** 48 1 6
Chicago 000 010 000 1-2
2 LOB—Colorado 11, Chicago 10. 2B—LeMahieu, Oberg. 3B—J.Baez. 5B—Gore, J.Baez. SF—Arenado. S—Almora.

IP	H	R	E	R	BB	SO
Freeland	6	4	1	0	1	6
Ottavino BS-1	1	2	1	0	1	1
Davis	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rusin	1	0	0	0	0	0
Oberg W-1	1	0	0	0	0	4

Chicago	6	4	1	1	9
Chavez	1	1	0	0	0
Hamels	1	0	0	0	0
Cishek	2	0	0	0	0
Hamels	2	0	0	0	0
Hamels	2	2	0	0	1
Wilson	1	0	0	0	0
Hendricks L-0-1	1	0	0	0	0
De La Rosa	0	0	0	0	1
De La Rosa	0	0	0	0	1
De La Rosa	0	0	0	0	1

De La Rosa, 7-4-555. A—40,151 (41,649).



NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Cubs' Javier Baez reacts after lining out to Colorado Rockies right fielder Daniel Dahl during the fourth inning of the National League wild-card playoff Tuesday in Chicago.

SPORTS



A knack for the big play

Bengals stepping up at right time to open season 3-1 » **NFL, Page 28**

MLB PLAYOFFS: NL WILD CARD

The Colorado Rockies celebrate their 2-1 win over the Chicago Cubs in the National League wild-card playoff game Wednesday in Chicago.

DAVID BANKS/AP



NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Rockies' Tony Wolters, right, hits the single that drove in teammate Trevor Story with the winning run in the 13th inning.

Rockies rolling

Colorado eliminates Cubs in 13 innings

BY JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

"Probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure," he said.

Wolters, 26, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves, that's for sure," Story said, "but we're going to enjoy this one tonight and we're definitely not done."

SEE ROLLING ON PAGE 31

